

SANTA ROSA & SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS  
NATIONAL MONUMENT  
MONUMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

LOCATION: PALM DESERT CITY HALL  
73-510 Fred Waring Drive  
Palm Desert, CA

DATE AND TIME: Saturday, June 3, 2006  
9:01 a.m. to 1:42 p.m.

REPORTED BY: JUDITH W. GILLESPIE, CSR, RPR  
(No. 3710)

JOB NO. 65497JG

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MEMBERS PRESENT:

REPRESENTING:

GARY WATTS MAC Chairman	California State Department Parks and Recreation and CA Dept. of Fish and Game
TERRY HENDERSON MAC Vice-Chair	City of La Quinta
ROBERT BROCKMAN	City of Rancho Mirage
BUFORD CRITES	City of Palm Desert
BARY FREET	City of Cathedral City
PAUL MARCHAND	City of Cathedral City
BARBARA GONZALES-LYONS	Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
BILL HAVERT	Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy
JEFF MORGAN	Sierra Club
AL MUTH	Academic Research and Natural Science, UCR, Deep Canyon Desert Research Center
BOB LYMAN	County of Riverside
RIC SERVICE	Winter Park Authority
DAWN WELLMAN	Pinyon Community Council
MARY T. ROCHE	City of Indian Wells
BARBARA BERGMAN	Alternative for Pinyon Community Council

1 FEDERAL STAFF PRESENT:

2 JIM FOOTE, DFO Acting National Monument  
3 Manager  
4 STEVEN BORCHARD BLM California Desert  
5 District Manager  
6 GINA THOMPSON US Forest Service, Deputy  
7 National Monument Manager  
8 JEANNE WADE-EVANS US Forest Service, San  
9 Bernardino National Forest  
10 Supervisor  
11 LAURIE ROSENTHAL US Forest Service, San  
12 Bernardino National Forest  
13 District Ranger  
14 GAIL ACHESON BLM, Palm Springs-South Coast  
15 Field Manager  
16 TRACY ALBRECHT BLM, Santa Rosa & San Jacinto  
17 Mountains National  
18 Monument, Interpretive  
19 Specialist  
20 FRANK MOWRY BLM, Santa Rosa & San Jacinto  
21 Mountains National Monument  
22 Writer-Editor

23 PRESENTERS TO THE MAC:

24 TOM DAVIS Agua Caliente Band of  
25 Cahuilla Indians, Tribal  
Planning Director  
NORM WALKER US Forest Service, Fire  
Management Officer  
KERMIT JOHANSSON US Forest Service, Landscape  
Architect

1 A-G-E-N-D-A

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1 PALM DESERT, CA Saturday, June 3, 2006

2 9:01 a.m.

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4 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

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7 CHAIRMAN WATTS: I'm going to go ahead  
8 and call the meeting to order. We have several new  
9 people that we will have introductions on. We also  
10 have a new court reporter here today; her name is Judy  
11 Gillespie. Please speak one at a time and slowly so  
12 she can adequately record our statements.

13 Jim, if you could do a roll call.

14 MR. FOOTE: Thank you, Gary. Frank  
15 Bogert. Absent.

16 Bob Brockman.

17 MR. BROCKMAN: Here.

18 MR. FOOTE: Kathie Brennan. Absent.

19 Buford Crites.

20 MR. CRITES: Here.

21 MR. FOOTE: Bary Freet.

22 MR. FREET: Here.

23 MR. FOOTE: Barbara Gonzales-Lyons.

24 MS. GONZALES-LYONS: Here.

25 MR. FOOTE: Bill Havert.

1 MR. HAVERT: Here.

2 MR. FOOTE: Terry Henderson.

3 MS. HENDERSON: Here.

4 MR. FOOTE: Bob Lyman. Absent.

5 Paul Marchand.

6 MR. MARCHAND: Present.

7 MR. FOOTE: Jeff Morgan.

8 MR. MORGAN: Yeah.

9 MR. FOOTE: Al Muth.

10 MR. MUTH: Here.

11 MR. FOOTE: Rob Parkins, absent. Mary

12 Roche.

13 MS. ROCHE: Yes, here.

14 MR. FOOTE: Ric Service.

15 MR. SERVICE: Here.

16 MR. FOOTE: Gary Watts.

17 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Here.

18 MR. FOOTE: Dawn Wellman.

19 MS. WELLMAN: Here.

20 MR. FOOTE: That is that.

21 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Before we introduce our

22 VIPs and new people, if we can just stay with the

23 agenda. And everyone has had a chance to see the

24 minutes. I would love to hear a motion to receive and

25 file them if there are no corrections.

1 MS. HENDERSON: So moved.

2 MR. MUTH: Second.

3 MR. MARCHAND: May the record note that  
4 Mr. Marchand abstains.

5 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Okay.

6 Our next agenda item is some membership and  
7 introduction issues. If I can have Mr. Foote take  
8 that, I would appreciate that.

9 MR. FOOTE: I would like to welcome two  
10 new members of the monument Advisory Committee. The  
11 first is Ric Service, representing Winter Park  
12 Authority. And perhaps briefly if, Ric, you could  
13 tell a little bit about yourself in a minute or less.

14 MR. SERVICE: I arrived in the Valley in  
15 1970 and worked with the City of Palm Springs as an  
16 environmental planner. Left that career and went into  
17 the restaurant business and built a little taco stand  
18 in Palm Springs known as Las Casuelas Terraza. I am  
19 recently divorced, moved to Idyllwild, and I'm  
20 chairman of the Tram.

21 MR. FOOTE: Thank you, Ric. Our second  
22 new member is Paul Marchand to my left, as well. If  
23 you could introduce yourself.

24 MR. MARCHAND: I know most of you, so I  
25 will be brief. I'm still a member of the Cathedral

1 City Council and have been since 2002. I served  
2 with Al and Phil and a number of other people here on  
3 the Mountains Conservancy Board, including Buford.  
4 Wake up, Buford. And so I'm looking forward to  
5 serving. Thank you for having me.

6 MR. FOOTE: Thank you, Paul.

7 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Welcome Ric and Paul.  
8 I think you will find this is an entertaining group,  
9 if nothing else. We do want to say thank you to a  
10 couple of members that are leaving this esteemed body.  
11 Mr. Bary Freet and Mr. Rob Parkins. Jim, do you have  
12 anything to say on that?

13 MR. FOOTE: Yes. I just want to, of  
14 course, thank them for all their help with the  
15 Monument Advisory Committee. And I do have a  
16 going-away gift for Bary Freet. Rob isn't here, so he  
17 gets his choice.

18 MR. FREET: I will take red.

19 MR. FOOTE: With the bighorn sheep.

20 MR. FREET: Thank you very much. And  
21 Paul, congratulations.

22 CHAIRMAN WATTS: I would like to thank  
23 Bary Freet for all the work you've done, and I  
24 remember five or six years ago when we met at the  
25 Living Desert the first dinner we had when the

1 committee got formed. And I remember Jeff was at my  
2 table and you were, and we all got to sort of  
3 introduce ourselves at that point. And it's hard to  
4 think we have come this far in that amount of time.  
5 So thank you for your input from a fire-related  
6 perspective. It's been wonderful and valuable and  
7 thanks again.

8                   And to Rob, he is not here, but I do work  
9 with Rob on a daily basis at the tram at Mt. San  
10 Jacinto State Park. And I just can't say enough good  
11 things about the way Rob works and the person that he  
12 is. So he has turned the reins over to Ric, and  
13 that's great. But I do want to acknowledge Rob's  
14 contribution as well. He did a good job while he was  
15 here and he is a good friend of mine. And I really  
16 appreciate it. And I want to make sure for the record  
17 that that thank you goes back to him.

18                   The next item we have is misleading:  
19 Status tenure, chair and vice chair. But we just  
20 wanted to remind everybody that the next meeting is  
21 the annual turnover of the chair position. So you  
22 should be thinking about who you want to take over  
23 that role, and the vice chair, as well.

24                   So that will be on the next agenda and my  
25 work will be done in the September meeting right after

1 we get that done. So just a reminder on that.

2 Frank, do you want to talk about  
3 appointments and nominations on the next agenda item?

4 MR. MOWRY: I can do that. As you all  
5 know, we are currently in a situation of where we are  
6 calling for new members. We have openings that will  
7 be coming up on March 16 of 2007 for Palm Springs,  
8 local building and industry, La Quinta, local  
9 conservation and environmental groups, and of course,  
10 the chairman's position with either California State  
11 Parks or Fish and Wildlife Department.

12 We put -- the "Federal Register Notice"  
13 went in on April 24. We have 90 days. We are taking  
14 nomination applications for somebody representing  
15 these five positions. The deadline is July 23rd. By  
16 the 6th of July we will have to decide whether we need  
17 to do an extension on that [deadline]. We need to get two  
18 applications for each position because the status now  
19 is we have a nomination, primary person and an  
20 alternate person. So that's what that issue is  
21 concerning, and that's basically it.

22 The next group of five who will come up for  
23 renewal will be with Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert, Agua  
24 Caliente, somebody from research and science - academic  
25 community, and Pinyon Community Council, but that will

1 be December 16, 2008. We figured that the  
2 process to get nominations through Washington takes  
3 almost a year, nine months to a year to get it taken  
4 care of. Any questions?

5 I do have applications, extra applications  
6 if anybody needs one. I did include an extra  
7 application for the five in your packages this  
8 morning. So if you need extra applications, just let  
9 me know; you may pull them down off-line or get  
10 them from the [BLM Palm Springs-South Coast] office.

11 CHAIRMAN WATTS: For those that don't  
12 know, my retirement from State Parks will be effective  
13 in October, so my term extends beyond my employment  
14 capabilities. So we are wrestling with that  
15 internally how that fits within the framework of the  
16 committee. And I will probably end up serving out the  
17 term until the replacements are approved at the  
18 Washington level.

19 So I want to segue way into the next agenda  
20 item, which is staffing. And before we do that, why  
21 don't we acknowledge all of the people that are here  
22 from the agencies, because we are loaded today.  
23 Appreciate that.

24 MR. FOOTE: I was going to do that. I  
25 think for the first time we have the entire National

1 Monument Board of Directors at the table. And working  
2 from left to right, Rosie -

3 MS. ROSENTHAL: Rosie Laurie.

4 MR. FOOTE: You want to change your  
5 name? Laurie Rosenthal, the district ranger for the  
6 San Jacinto District of San Bernardino National  
7 Forest. Jeanne Wade-Evans, the forest supervisor for  
8 the forest. Gail Acheson, our Palm Springs field  
9 manager. And Steve Borchard, the California Desert  
10 District manager. We welcome them. This is the first  
11 time we have had the entire board here.

12 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Thank you all for  
13 coming. It's good to see you all.

14 MR. FOOTE: And that's probably the  
15 segue way into the monument staffing. And this might  
16 be a good opportunity for our two new MAC members to  
17 understand how the monument is staffed and also where  
18 we are on the staffing to all the other MAC members.

19 Currently in our table of organization we  
20 have five permanent positions, and we will talk about  
21 the individuals filling those positions, but five  
22 permanent positions on the monument staff.

23 Those are the monument manager, the  
24 interpretive specialist, two BLM park rangers, which  
25 typically are housed at the visitor center. And one

1 forest service information contact specialist, also  
2 housed at the visitors center. Those five positions  
3 are currently in various states of occupation, if you  
4 will. Right now there are only two of those positions  
5 permanently filled, those being the interpretive  
6 specialist and one park ranger at the visitor center.

7 I just concluded a 120-day detail as the  
8 monument manager and effective tomorrow, beginning a  
9 temporary duty as monument manager for a period not to  
10 exceed one year, but extensions possible beyond that.

11 Again, Tracy Albrecht is occupying the  
12 interpretive specialist position. She is in a  
13 permanent capacity. Bonnie Atkins of the visitor  
14 center is also permanent. That leaves one vacancy for  
15 park ranger at the visitor center. That's a BLM  
16 position. That was previously occupied by David  
17 Korzilius and the forest service position at the  
18 visitor center, which was occupied by Pam Hansen.

19 The other position we commonly recognize in  
20 the monument as a staffer is Frank's position as  
21 writer-editor. That is a TERM position that expires  
22 in November. So currently we are looking at what is  
23 the table of organization.

24 Working toward that, we now have a deputy  
25 monument manager occupied by Gina Thompson, who is

1 right there, right at the front. I would like to  
2 introduce all of you to Gina if you haven't already  
3 met her. Gina is going to help me weather the storm  
4 here of trying to unbury myself from a lot of work and  
5 also will determine what may be the best in  
6 conjunction, working with the Board of Directors, the  
7 best organizational setup for the monument.

8                   Then, we do have one vacancy of a park  
9 ranger at the visitor center that may become  
10 something else, some other kind of position. The  
11 writer-editor position again is a TERM. We don't know  
12 quite how all this is going to come together. Gina's  
13 position will go through September as a 120-day  
14 detail. So we are working on that.

15                   Let the record show, by the way, that Bob  
16 Lyman has now joined our group.

17                   MR. LYMAN: Sure. Sure.

18                   MR. FOOTE: That's just kind of a quick  
19 update on what the monument staffing situation is. I  
20 would be glad to entertain suggestions in that regard.  
21 There being none, we will move on.

22                   CHAIRMAN WATTS: I have one quick  
23 question. Where will Gina be stationed, then, as  
24 deputy monument manager?

25                   MR. FOOTE: Gina will be stationed at

1 our BLM Palm Springs office. So hopefully you will  
2 get to know her very well, and she will be very much  
3 involved in all our activities.

4 MS. ACHESON: Excuse me -

5 MR. MORGAN: When do you expect to have  
6 the vacant positions filled?

7 MR. FOOTE: Well, again, the three  
8 vacant positions, the monument manager, the BLM park  
9 ranger, and the Forest Service individual at the  
10 visitor center, various stages. The monument manager  
11 position, I'm just entering a temporary detail. That  
12 may continue for a while, so that one remains to be  
13 seen how long that may take.

14 The BLM park ranger position up at the  
15 visitors center is one we are looking at how best to  
16 utilize the position itself. We are hoping to work  
17 with the Friends of Desert Mountains in moving the  
18 book store operation out into the lobby, whereby the  
19 individuals who conduct sales can also do the  
20 meet-and-greet of visitors, thereby freeing up the  
21 permanent BLM/Forest positions to do other tasks,  
22 better utilize their capabilities and skills.

23 The Forest Service position is still in  
24 process. I believe the vacancy period now has closed,  
25 but hasn't gone beyond that. If you want to elaborate

1 on that.

2 MS. ROSENTHAL: The vacancy announcement  
3 has closed. We do have what's called a referral list,  
4 and we are looking at the applicants. There are many,  
5 many on that. So it's getting close to the final  
6 stage. I would say in the next month or so we should  
7 probably be offering the position to somebody.

8 MS. ACHESON: Did you want to give a  
9 little background on Gina because she comes through  
10 the Forest Service and I think people might like to  
11 know her background.

12 MR. FOOTE: I'll let Gina introduce  
13 herself.

14 MS. THOMPSON: Good morning. I have  
15 been with the Forest Service about 18 years, primarily  
16 here in Southern California. I've been the recreation  
17 officer up on the Santa Lucia District, the Los Padres  
18 Forest, and now currently here on the San Bernardino  
19 Forest on the Forest District. So I moved from Big  
20 Bear Lake and I managed the visitor centers up  
21 through Arrowhead and Big Bear, that type of thing.

22 I'm pleased to be here, and I think it's  
23 going to be a happy task to help bring some focus to  
24 our management.

25 MR. FOOTE: Gina should be commended for

1 coming to the desert in the summer. Normally people  
2 come here in the winter and spend the summer in Big  
3 Bear, but she is doing just the opposite. Thanks for  
4 being here.

5 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Terry Henderson.

6 MS. HENDERSON: Jim, how many volunteers  
7 do we have and how important is the volunteer program  
8 to the programs that we are involved with?

9 MR. FOOTE: I wish I had those answers  
10 in terms of numbers to help you out. Tracy may be  
11 able to provide that. But let me just say that the  
12 volunteer program and the need for volunteers is  
13 great. The future of the monument in my mind is one  
14 of partnerships and volunteerism as part of those  
15 partnerships is huge, and we need to build that to the  
16 greatest degree we can.

17 The Friends of Desert Mountains as our  
18 primary association that we are working with hasn't  
19 yet filled their volunteer coordinator position, which  
20 is in reality volunteer coordinator/national monument  
21 liaison, so hopefully that will occur before much  
22 longer. And I think that will help it greatly.

23 Tracy can address the number of volunteers  
24 we have had and types of programs they do.

25 MS. ALBRECHT: The national monument

1 through the BLM program has two volunteers that are  
2 used on a regular basis, eight hours a week, average  
3 or more. But we have partnered with the Friends of  
4 the Desert Mountains and relied on their volunteers to  
5 do book sales for the Bobcat Book Store and also to do  
6 some programming out at the visitor center. And they  
7 have had a little rocky road with the volunteer  
8 coordinator, so we are hoping they will be recruiting  
9 significant numbers and quality volunteers.

10 MR. FOOTE: I would also like to  
11 acknowledge that recently, within the last couple  
12 months, that both the Friends of the Desert Mountains  
13 and the Coachella [Valley] Mountains Conservancy received  
14 presidential awards for their volunteer efforts.  
15 Certainly the Friends toward their efforts in the  
16 national monument specifically, and the California  
17 [Valley] Mountains Conservancy on a broader basis, but they  
18 were recognized by this administration for their  
19 efforts.

20 MS. HENDERSON: Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Any other questions on  
22 staffing? I think you painted a very clear picture  
23 for our two new members, Jim. We will go to the next  
24 agenda item, and that's on budget.

25 MR. FOOTE: This is just an update,

1 something very brief. And I will touch upon some of  
2 this later when we get toward the end of the agenda  
3 with the work group issue. But you do have some  
4 information on packets that were distributed to you.

5           The first one I think of importance is the  
6 fiscal year FY 2006 anticipated accomplishments with  
7 one-time funds. I don't want to provide an update of  
8 everything that the agencies have been doing in  
9 expending in terms of – for projects in the national  
10 monument. I just want to touch upon the one-time  
11 funds. And these are the funds that Mary Bono has  
12 been instrumental in getting for the national  
13 monument.

14           Early in the fiscal year, of course,  
15 Congress does act upon our budgets, and we did get an  
16 allocation of \$493,000 coming specifically to the BLM  
17 but identified as national monument funds for  
18 implementation of the national monument management  
19 plan. At that point we look at those dollars and  
20 determine best how to accomplish work with those  
21 dollars.

22           What you see in front of you – this is the  
23 one that looks like a table. And it has some black  
24 spots filled in. This was a result of a working  
25 effort between BLM and the Forest Service to identify

1 which are the highest priority projects we could  
2 accomplish in this fiscal year which ends on September  
3 30th with these one-time funds. And I don't want to  
4 go through every one of these in detail. I think they  
5 are fairly self-explanatory, but feel free to ask  
6 questions.

7           As you can see, we did cover the bases  
8 between some cultural resource projects and other  
9 natural resource projects, specifically some dealing  
10 with the weed management. We did look at some  
11 facilities in terms of enhancements. And I think the  
12 key ones in regards to that are moneys that we'll be  
13 putting towards development of a new parking lot to  
14 provide for use of the Randall Henderson Trail. That  
15 will be up near the visitor center. Some night  
16 lighting in the parking lot at the visitor center.  
17 We will do some re-decking of the Cahuilla Tewanet up  
18 on Forest Service land and also to push forward the  
19 tamarisk eradication, money to the Forest Service to  
20 conduct some surveys for Least Bell's Vireo.

21           So those are some of the highlights of what  
22 we hope to do here. Also, another item you will see  
23 here is the purchase of signs. And these are the  
24 boundary signs for the national monument, which we will  
25 touch upon later, so more details to come. But we do

1 have money programmed this year to move forward with  
2 this project and complete that. That's a quick  
3 overview of the FY06 one-time fund use.

4 I think it's important for the FY07  
5 scenario as it stands now is to first look at this  
6 other sheet, which is the activity recreation  
7 management, subactivity recreation resource  
8 management, to understand how our budget works – and  
9 it's a little complex, but when we get the one-time  
10 funds, at least in fiscal year FY 2006, they came to  
11 BLM specifically in the recreation budget as base  
12 funding. And it's important to recognize the base  
13 funding to understand this next FY07 circumstance.

14 These are two pages from the president's  
15 budget on budget justifications. And you will see for  
16 the San Jacinto-Santa Rosa implementation, minus  
17 \$493,000. You can see how they outlined what would  
18 happen in 2006. They provided that money to  
19 accomplish certain tasks, which we are accomplishing  
20 many of those and expanding on many. The minus  
21 \$493,000 in the president's budget reflected that  
22 one-time add-on to our base funding. So it was a  
23 reduction of that same amount of our base funding.

24 Again, this year, Mary Bono has been  
25 successful in getting a half million dollars for the

1 national monument. We anticipate this will come in  
2 once again through the BLM side, but we look at that  
3 as national monument funding. It's not specifically  
4 BLM funding. So once again we have discussed the  
5 allocation of those dollars with the Forest Service  
6 for a preliminary look at how we will expend those.  
7 As time goes on and we start to integrate that with  
8 our other budgets, we will find out exactly how much  
9 of that we can move to the ground for on-the-ground  
10 projects.

11 So that's one. I guess at this point I say  
12 stay tuned.

13 MR. HAVERT: Just to clarify, so the  
14 minus 493 is effectively offset by the earmarked  
15 500,000, so you have essentially the same budget for  
16 the coming year as for the current year?

17 MR. FOOTE: Well, a little caveat in  
18 that we don't -- in terms of how the rest of the base  
19 funding will come down, we don't know that picture  
20 yet. So we have that picture in the certainty pretty  
21 much of the one-time moneys. The rest of the picture  
22 we don't have clarity on.

23 MS. HENDERSON: A question. If the  
24 baseline budget is substantially or even minorly cut  
25 from what it is, you can't move any of the one-time

1 funding to fill in any of the gaps in the base  
2 funding, can you?

3 MR. FOOTE: It's a little – it's not  
4 quite that simple, as always. When you look at, again  
5 back to our staffing issues, how we actually operate,  
6 we have the monument and then we have the rest from  
7 the BLM side, the Palm Springs Field Office and then  
8 we, of course, have the Forest Service side. There  
9 are a lot of collateral duties that are accomplished  
10 for monument tasks by non-monument staff. So we need  
11 to integrate as best we need to how that all comes  
12 together and balance and make sure we still pay the  
13 people who are doing the monument tasks. And that is  
14 where that lack of clarity is right now.

15 But, yes, there are a lot of people who are  
16 doing collateral duty for the field office, for the  
17 monument that work in the field office for the  
18 monument. And we may need to take some of those funds  
19 to do – to pay those folks. However, in large part a  
20 lot of those folks are still doing those monument  
21 projects that may fall under the list of the one-time  
22 anticipated projects. So it's not a simple answer.  
23 And so I say stay tuned. We just don't know the full  
24 budget picture yet. And only when we do will we be  
25 able to put all the pieces together.

1 MS. HENDERSON: When is that anticipated  
2 to be?

3 MR. FOOTE: I will defer over to Gail  
4 and Steve on that.

5 DIRECTOR BORCHARD: November or  
6 December. Typically, it's about in that time frame.

7 MR. FOOTE: So we are already into our  
8 fiscal year, which begins October 1st, before we  
9 really determine how much money we have to spend.

10 MS. HENDERSON: Thank you.

11 MR. MORGAN: This money that comes from  
12 Mary Bono's efforts, now is the time to be looking at  
13 fiscal '08. Starting this week is when they start  
14 putting their things together in Washington for fiscal  
15 '08, so it's never too soon to state our need as  
16 nicely as we can. And individually, of course, not as  
17 a group, and say we still need the money.

18 MR. MUTH: Thank for your valiant  
19 attempt to explain this budget process.

20 MR. FOOTE: Let me bring out my budget  
21 here, because I want to -- if it ever gets --

22 MR. MUTH: That was facetious.

23 MR. FOOTE: But apparently this was not  
24 easy.

25 MR. MUTH: I am glad to play into it for

1 you.

2 DIRECTOR BORCHARD: Nothing is safe  
3 while Congress is in session.

4 MR. MUTH: Where in this budget process  
5 does the monument or the Forest Service address  
6 deferred maintenance in campgrounds and public safety  
7 issues in campgrounds?

8 MR. FOOTE: Specifically camp grounds,  
9 from a monument perspective, there is only one. And  
10 that's the Pinyon Campground, which is administered by  
11 the Forest Service. And I defer to Laurie for that.

12 MS. ROSENTHAL: There is also a horse  
13 camp across the street.

14 MR. MUTH: Where does Cactus Springs -  
15 what is the campground?

16 MR. CRITES: That may be one of the  
17 problems if neither of these folks know it's a  
18 campground. That might explain the problem.

19 MR. FOOTE: We have other sites. The  
20 Forest Service has something called yellow post sites,  
21 which are -

22 MR. CRITES: Mountain Springs Campground  
23 has bathrooms, picnic tables, campsites. I would call  
24 that a campground.

25 MS. ROSENTHAL: That is actually focused

1 on as a need to be addressed as far as Mountains in  
2 '07.

3 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Just as a quick  
4 reminder, one at a time, please. There is a lot of –  
5 it's hard for our court reporter to keep track of  
6 three or four people saying something at once.  
7 Buford.

8 MR. CRITES: A question, then. Santa  
9 Rosa Mountain Campground – or not campground,  
10 whichever – has a spring with a water pipe that's  
11 been used by people for probably 40 or 50 years. And  
12 the spring box, the lid is gone, which means anything  
13 that wanders by and falls in it will become part of  
14 the mix of the drinking water. And I would think  
15 something like that probably shouldn't wait a long  
16 period of time. I had a chance to chat with – is it  
17 Chris Rush, a ranger last fall on that, so I'm just  
18 curious on that as an example. Where does that go and  
19 how does that get resolved where something needs  
20 probably tending to in a fairly quick fashion?

21 MS. ROSENTHAL: Now that I'm aware of  
22 it, we will get focused on it. I wasn't aware of  
23 that, but thank you for bringing that up, Buford.

24 MR. CRITES: So on a longer basis, the  
25 rest rooms or – I think Al made a comment when we

1 went up there the other day, when people keep the  
2 toilet paper outside, that's probably a hint as to the  
3 quality of not wanting to be -- is there a master  
4 planning effort that we say this comes first, this  
5 comes second and --

6 MS. ROSENTHAL: As far as that --

7 MR. CRITES: -- rehabbing, etc.?

8 MS. ROSENTHAL: -- that particular  
9 project as compared to other sites, there isn't. But  
10 it would be nice in my opinion if the MAC was involved  
11 in some of the prioritizing.

12 MR. FOOTE: We will touch upon that  
13 subject as we get towards the end of the agenda. It's  
14 very appropriate.

15 CHAIRMAN WATTS: There are several in  
16 line. Are your questions answered?

17 MR. MUTH: Yes.

18 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Terry, then Jeff and  
19 then Bill.

20 MS. HENDERSON: I think from what I am  
21 hearing here that it would be really important if we  
22 could establish a list of campgrounds, because what I  
23 heard earlier is the potential of two that were  
24 recognized and maybe three or four that aren't  
25 recognized. And I don't know that, that they are or

1 aren't, but maybe we ought to establish a list of the  
2 campground sites and then determine the ones that  
3 don't appear on that list and find out if there are  
4 other ones. And what it takes to officially recognize  
5 a camp site and not ones that just kind of sprouted up  
6 on their own.

7           And then maybe do a tour of them by this  
8 volunteer committee that I think you are going to be  
9 putting together, that doesn't include me – or  
10 recommend some sort of a program that we can undertake  
11 this year to at least visit these camp sites and then  
12 prioritize them, as has been suggested. I think  
13 really it sounds like something we can really get our  
14 hands on instead of some of the things we talk about  
15 and never get anything done.

16           CHAIRMAN WATTS: Perhaps we should  
17 recognize camp sites versus campgrounds, because we  
18 have developed campgrounds in the monument. And then  
19 we have several camp sites, especially in the back  
20 country with associated facilities that go with them,  
21 just as a point of clarification.

22           Laurie, did you respond before I go to  
23 Jeff?

24           MS. ROSENTHAL: I want to say one thing:  
25 The recreation budget keeps going down. We also

1 have – somebody called it a CIP process, which is  
2 Capital Investment Program, which is not really –  
3 let's just say that it's so competitive and there is  
4 so little money that that's probably not where we want  
5 to focus on, even though we could apply for it. It's  
6 several years out and chances are rather slim the way  
7 things are going now of that particular program.

8           So basically, the only real focus that I  
9 see right now is through partnerships as far as  
10 actually getting this. And possibly that money that's  
11 coming in, the half million for some, but it's  
12 probably going to take more than that.

13           CHAIRMAN WATTS: Jeff Morgan.

14           MR. MORGAN: Speaking of camp sites in  
15 the monument, there is Round Valley in the San  
16 Bernardino Mountains, fairly large developed camp  
17 sites, definitely needing maintenance. Within the  
18 national monument some of this discretionary spending  
19 money could possibly be used for improving those areas  
20 because I know the state doesn't have any money.

21           CHAIRMAN WATTS: Bill, you were next.

22           MR. HAVERT: Just a budget clarification  
23 question again for the Forest Service. Do you  
24 segregate your funds at all, that this money is for  
25 the monument area and this money is for the rest of

1 the forest? Or do funds just sort of – do things  
2 compete with each other for one pot of funds that can  
3 either go to something over in the Arrowhead area or  
4 the Crestline area or the monument? How is your  
5 budget structured.

6 MS. ROSENTHAL: That's correct. There  
7 is no special earmark and no special job code for the  
8 monument. It does compete, but it's a priority to the  
9 forest.

10 MR. HAVERT: If I can have a follow-up  
11 question: Is there any opportunity there to try to  
12 create a separate fund that would have a better chance  
13 of getting congressional funding for monument-related  
14 projects?

15 MS. WADE-EVANS: Well, as Laurie  
16 mentioned, most of the funding would either come  
17 through recreation, trails, those kind of programs and  
18 they would compete. In terms of segregating it, we  
19 like the discretion of being able to take those  
20 limited dollars and put them in places we think they  
21 need to go. Could there be a – the only kind of  
22 special account that needs to be earmarked accounts is  
23 basically what we have through Mary Bono's typical  
24 one-time funding.

25 MR. HAVERT: Her earmark is just because

1 of the budget structuring to BLM, but a separate  
2 earmark for the Forest Service?

3 MS. WADE-EVANS: Yes, but we work as a  
4 board to prioritize those funds. At least since I  
5 have been here, seamlessly for the monument.

6 MR. BORCHARD: As far as the board  
7 is concerned and also the BLM representation on the  
8 board, there is no boundary – I want to echo what  
9 Jeanne just said. The board makes decisions together  
10 as a monument management board, not as individual  
11 agency managers. So we prioritize work based on the  
12 entire monument needs. And it's irrelevant that the  
13 appropriation for the monument comes in Interior's  
14 earmark that Mary puts in there. We consider it the  
15 monument's funding.

16 MR. HAVERT: My last follow-up. I don't  
17 doubt that. My only question had really to do with  
18 the political dimension of it. Since you have  
19 Interior and Department of Agriculture, is there any  
20 way to try to work that better to get funds coming  
21 from here and from here and thereby enhance the total?

22 MS. ACHESON: I just want to say that we  
23 did work with the Forest Service this year to try to  
24 have parallel tracks go up through the chain. I don't  
25 know that it came back down that way, but it came to

1 BLM's budget. But we did try that method. I know we  
2 prioritized our projects together, and Forest Service  
3 has a submission and we do too.

4 MS. WADE-EVANS: So it's possible  
5 because we have used both routes for at least  
6 identifying that.

7 MR. CRITES: It's also worth noting that  
8 we gave up at least one minor source of funding when  
9 the monument decided, for consistency and continuity,  
10 to not have the Adventure Pass on the Forest Service  
11 side of the monument. So we are ineligible, I think  
12 is the proper term, for Forest Service Adventure Pass  
13 funds. Oh, well.

14 MS. ROSENTHAL: And that also pays for  
15 staffing to do the maintenance. We have Adventure  
16 Pass technicians.

17 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Okay. Terry Henderson.

18 MS. HENDERSON: I just can't help myself  
19 here. Do we post these sites and ask for  
20 cooperation - I mean, we are talking about cleaning  
21 up after people that won't clean up after themselves.  
22 That's what we are talking about here. And are the  
23 sites posted with some kind of rules and regulations  
24 on use of them?

25 MS. ROSENTHAL: If you go to the contact

1 station up in Idyllwild, or hopefully the visitor  
2 center down here, there will be information about  
3 these yellow posted sites, these disperse camp sites.  
4 And that does have recommendations like you are  
5 talking about.

6 MS. HENDERSON: But it's not posted at  
7 the site itself?

8 MS. ROSENTHAL: I'm not sure. Has  
9 anybody been there recently?

10 MR. CRITES: Those sites aren't, no.

11 MS. WADE-EVANS: Just the developed  
12 campgrounds.

13 MS. HENDERSON: Eliminate them.

14 MR. FOOTE: I would like to just  
15 reiterate a couple more things and bring some new  
16 information that wasn't quite apparent.

17 Again to reiterate what Steve and Jeanne  
18 are certainly saying is we treat the money as monument  
19 money, and that's reflected really – this is the one  
20 time in the table we provided that this is a joint  
21 Forest Service/BLM effort to identify across the board  
22 with no – with no respect to boundaries where the  
23 money needs to go.

24 Also, this year as in previous years the  
25 Forest Service has provided for 40 percent funding of

1 the national monument manager position, of the  
2 interpretive specialist position, and of the writer-  
3 editor position. They have also funded money for  
4 Friends of the Desert Mountains, for support of the  
5 Monument Advisory Committee and other moneys. So in  
6 other words, money may come to the BLM through the one  
7 time and we disperse some to Forest Service. But out  
8 of the Forest budget, money is also coming back to BLM  
9 to support the monument. I wanted to clarify, this is  
10 just not money coming out of BLM going one way. It's  
11 a two-way street.

12 MS. ACHESON: I would like to thank the  
13 Forest Service in allowing Gina to come for a detail.  
14 You have to count that as a staffing issue. And they  
15 are, I think, trying to help us in our staffing levels  
16 with what they have. So I think there has been a lot  
17 of progress made between the two agencies.

18 MS. ROSENTHAL: I just have one last  
19 comment about the question before, about money coming  
20 both ways. The federal agencies can't ask for money.  
21 That is considered lobbying. We have to be asked what  
22 our needs are by Mary Bono's staff or other  
23 Congressional staffs. So if that doesn't happen, we  
24 do this other process through BLM. But we have to be  
25 asked.

1                   CHAIRMAN WATTS:  Since we are talking  
2 about mixed funding in the monument itself, I feel  
3 obligated to point out that State Parks is a part of  
4 it.  As part of our park in the monument, we don't  
5 fund anything based on the national monument part of  
6 it.  We are funded on park need, and deferred  
7 maintenance takes care of most of our rest room,  
8 signage in the back country which lies within the  
9 monument itself.  We are in the same boat.  We can't  
10 lobby for money.

11                   However, I should point out the legislature  
12 is feverishly putting together the final touches to  
13 the state budget for next year.  And the governor's  
14 budget that was released earlier this year had for  
15 state parks \$10 million for deferred maintenance.  But  
16 I'm led to believe that that's quite a flexible target  
17 in that the legislature may decide to include a lot  
18 more money in the budget for deferred maintenance,  
19 one-time expenditures only.

20                   So for those individuals that have an  
21 interest for seeing some of that money go for purposes  
22 that benefit the monument, you certainly can exercise  
23 your rights as an individual to notify the appropriate  
24 legislators.

25                   MR. GONZALES-LYONS:  Who would be -

1                   CHAIRMAN WATTS:  Senator Battin and  
2  Assembly persons –

3                   MS. HENDERSON:  Benoit, Garcia, Ducheny.

4                   MR. BROCKMAN:  Looking back at this  
5  sheet again, can I conclude that the \$298,000 that's  
6  identified out of the \$493 are the earmarked projects?  
7  Is the balance what we would call general  
8  administration straight across?

9                   MR. FOOTE:  To some degree.  Some of  
10 that goes to pay for labor costs for those folks  
11 associated with administering these projects with work  
12 in the monument.  These are strictly the project side  
13 of the issues without the contract administration  
14 costs or anything else associated with it.

15                   So we are probably likely to see the same  
16 kind of scenario as we play it out with the 2007  
17 one-time moneys.  That same kind of reduction in what  
18 can we actually put to the on-the-ground project  
19 without considering those labor side of the equation,  
20 if that makes any sense.

21                   MR. BROCKMAN:  Yes.

22                   MR. FOOTE:  Okay.  Thanks.

23                   Just to go on to the next agenda item which  
24 is associated with the budget very quickly.  I don't  
25 want to spend too much time with this.  It's kind of a

1 segue way from the issue brought up or that Gary raised  
2 about the parks and that ties to other jurisdictions  
3 and their projects.

4           If you recall, I sent out at the end of  
5 March an e-mail message that's also in your package  
6 here, just as a refresher. This is trying to move us  
7 along the process in really understanding what goes on  
8 within the monument boundaries in terms of budgets, in  
9 terms of projects, what are our needs, what do we  
10 actually get done, because truly, when you look at the  
11 monument, even though officially it's composed of the  
12 federal lands managed by BLM and Forest Service,  
13 that's only a piece of the picture.

14           It really is all the efforts and work of  
15 all the other jurisdictions that have lands and  
16 responsibilities within the monument boundary. I  
17 think it's fair to say to see what the monument costs,  
18 what we can do, it's really to reflect what we all do.

19           And I will touch upon this as we get  
20 towards the end of the agenda with looking at work  
21 groups. But we want to pull it all together. Gary  
22 has issues with campgrounds and other matters of  
23 management up on State Parks within the boundary.  
24 Well, those are costs that occur within the boundary  
25 but we don't reflect that. But at the same time, he

1 also has a lot of accomplishments up there. And we  
2 are not reflecting that in the big picture.

3 I think it's important to demonstrate what  
4 occurs in the monument, who cares about the boundary.  
5 What is it we do as a collective group because it's  
6 our national monument, not BLM and Forest Service,  
7 it's ours, meaning City of Palm Desert, La Quinta,  
8 Indian Wells, all of us. So it's an effort to go in  
9 that direction. But it's going to take involvement by  
10 all the parties, and there is where the work group I  
11 think can focus some effort.

12 One last note on budget. We do from the  
13 state office get a spread to the national monument by  
14 subactivities or – by subactivities, we mean cultural  
15 resources, recreation. But the money gets spread  
16 across all the landscape conservation units within the  
17 state. And of course, we are vying for money in  
18 competition with the others. So you usually get a  
19 sheet that includes all those, where the money went.  
20 These are national monuments, conservation areas,  
21 national historic and scenic trails, wild and scenic  
22 rivers, wilderness areas, wilderness study areas. So  
23 all the money that comes to the state gets spread  
24 among all these units, and we are competing for that.

25 If you add for FY 2006 this last spread,

1 the national monument, including the one-time funding  
2 of roughly half a million dollars, came to one and a  
3 half million dollars. That's what our national  
4 monument budget spread was. And again, once we work  
5 that in with our respective field office budgets, then  
6 we start to flesh out this picture as to how we are  
7 going to accomplish the tasks and what we need to do.

8 CHAIRMAN WATTS: I want to take five to  
9 give her a little rest. So why don't we -- we are  
10 moving on past the budget, if that's okay with  
11 everybody. Jim, if you can go into the next -- and  
12 let's take five minutes until 10:00 so we can give the  
13 court reporter a five-minute break before we reconvene  
14 at 10 o'clock.

15 MR. FOOTE: Recording of MAC meeting  
16 minutes. There are varied opinions on what we should  
17 continue or start anew. To reflect briefly what we  
18 said at the last MAC meeting, because we did raise the  
19 issue there, we do expend about \$1,700 per meeting to  
20 have court reporter notes. Over time, of course, that  
21 will accumulate to an amount of money that can reflect  
22 projects on the ground.

23 What we are doing today is something -- I  
24 don't know if you noticed, but Tracy Albrecht is  
25 taking notes. At the end of this we are going to be

1 distributing the court reporter notes and we are also  
2 going to distribute the notes that Tracy has taken so  
3 you can see side by side what the difference is.  
4 There is various options where we could incorporate an  
5 audio recording of the meeting to where anyone who  
6 really wants details could listen to an audio  
7 recording for a word by word rendition of what was  
8 said.

9           But for many, the few pages of notes that  
10 Tracy may develop today could be sufficient. And the  
11 savings, of course, I think are obvious in terms of  
12 money. However, this is something we are not going to  
13 resolve today because you will want to see in front of  
14 you the comparison of the two. And hopefully at the  
15 next MAC meeting, we might get better feedback from  
16 the MAC as to which direction might be preferable,  
17 understanding again, it's a cost issue. If the court  
18 reporter notes were free, I don't think we would have  
19 an issue, but they are not. So more to come on that.

20           You will see in the upcoming month these  
21 briefer notes and have some thoughts on that as to  
22 whether or not that's sufficient or we need to  
23 continue with court reporter notes.

24           CHAIRMAN WATTS: One comment. Jeff.

25           MR. MORGAN: When it comes to note

1 taking or court reporting, I think it's important if  
2 we are going to get an accurate picture that the  
3 person taking the notes does not see the transcript  
4 prior to the publication of the notes.

5 MR. FOOTE: Point well taken, and she  
6 won't.

7 CHAIRMAN WATTS: I'm going to take a  
8 break now for five minutes. Please don't go very far,  
9 and Tom Davis is here to make a presentation at 10:00.  
10 Out of politeness and courtesy, I want to start back  
11 at 10 o'clock.

12 (Brief recess was taken until 10 a.m.)

13 CHAIRMAN WATTS: I'm going to call us  
14 back to order. If you can find your way back to your  
15 seat, that would be great.

16 A couple of quick announcements. We have  
17 public comments. If anyone cares to make a public  
18 comment, there is a sign-up sheet or form on the  
19 clipboard out on the table or just grab me or Frank  
20 and let us know and we can get you set up for a public  
21 comment at 11:00.

22 And a quick reminder: Just make sure you  
23 speak up – especially on the far side of the room  
24 because you are far away from our location – so that  
25 we can record the comments properly.

1                   With that, next on our agenda we are going  
2 to go to our 10 o'clock slot, which is a presentation  
3 on national monument accomplishments, which is a nice  
4 segue way from what Jim was talking about earlier. But  
5 Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians and Tom Davis  
6 will be making a presentation.

7                   MR. FOOTE: May I just say a few words  
8 before Tom starts. The very next item was going to be  
9 a standardized agenda. This is one element that will  
10 occur, and we want to recognize accomplishments of the  
11 nonfederal partners in the national monument at every  
12 MAC meeting. So we will be doing somewhat of a  
13 rotational thing. So by the end of today's meeting, I  
14 hope we will have a volunteer that will step up to the  
15 plate to report their particular accomplishments at  
16 the September meeting.

17                   MEMBER DAVIS: This is my boss  
18 (indicating Ms. Gonzales Lyons.) Whatever she says  
19 goes.

20                   I'm Tom Davis, and I'm the chief planning  
21 and development officer for the tribe. Our department  
22 handles everything from environmental review and land  
23 acquisitions to issuing permits for development and  
24 actual construction. So everything that is done for  
25 and by the tribe and also by outside entities within

1 the reservation we handle in our office until the  
2 door – the keys are turned over to whoever is  
3 operating that facility. Then we are out of the  
4 picture. And operations takes over from there.

5           So it's a fun area of development, and we  
6 have been involved, our department and particularly  
7 myself have been involved in the monument development  
8 from the get-go. We work very closely with Interior  
9 staff, Gail's former compatriot, Jim McKinnon, and Bob  
10 Laidlaw from Interior, and all the way up to actual  
11 meeting with the council and the secretary at the Spa  
12 Hotel to develop a relationship, a cooperative  
13 relationship that would allow the monument to operate  
14 and to be whole, for lack of a better term, within the  
15 western side of the valley.

16           And in case you don't know and aren't aware  
17 of it, the Agua Caliente Indian Reservation is a  
18 checkerboard reservation that includes cities of  
19 Rancho Mirage, Cathedral City and Palm Springs, and a  
20 great deal of unincorporated territory in Riverside  
21 County which is also, as you can see within this green  
22 line, which is the national monument boundary.

23           The actual enabling legislation that  
24 created the monument itself actually mentions the fact  
25 that the secretaries shall enter into cooperative

1 agreements and shared management arrangements with any  
2 person, including the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla  
3 Indians, for the purposes of management,  
4 interpretation, research and education regarding the  
5 resource of the national monument. That is  
6 legislation and part of the enabling legislation of  
7 the monument.

8 MR. MARCHAND: Tom, on that last slide,  
9 I noticed the text of the document quoted secretary.  
10 There is a discrepancy between that and what you just  
11 said. You said "shall." Which is actually correct?  
12 They shall or may. Shall or may?

13 MR. DAVIS: That's a good question. I  
14 was going to get to that, Paul. It's hard to segue way  
15 into that particular issue. Prior to the legislation  
16 being adopted, of course, we went back and forth with  
17 Bono's staff and Interior on that exact terminology.

18 But the real bottom line here is the  
19 cooperative management agreement between the BLM and  
20 the tribe, which I have in my hands here and you may  
21 have seen it in previous meetings or whatever the case  
22 may be. But that agreement was entered into before  
23 the tribe committed to supporting the monument and the  
24 monument legislation, so we have the agreement.  
25 Whether it's "shall" or "may" is immaterial right now

1 because the agreement was put in place.

2 MR. MARCHAND: Never say that to an  
3 attorney.

4 MR. DAVIS: I know, I talk to attorneys  
5 all the time, but being a planner I can say  
6 "whatever."

7 MR. MARCHAND: And of course, we will  
8 come back and say "shall" is mandatory and "may" is  
9 permissive.

10 MR. DAVIS: If you as an individual  
11 organization want to enter into an agreement, you will  
12 have to twist Gail and Laurie's arms to get that  
13 agreement done.

14 MR. MARCHAND: We will use our famous  
15 charm.

16 MEMBER DAVIS: Over a period of time we  
17 have done exactly what - both BLM and ourselves have  
18 done exactly what the agreement called for. And that  
19 is to cooperate on a number of activities that are  
20 called for in the documentation, in the cooperative  
21 agreement, including but not limited to protection of  
22 allottee's rights and property rights, protection of  
23 water resources, protection of natural resources,  
24 particularly protection of cultural resources. And  
25 some of these things I am going to show you the recent

1 activities we have done.

2 But over a period of time we have spent  
3 ourselves, as far as staff time and in-house resources  
4 and actual Tribal Council authorized dollar  
5 expenditures, over half a million dollars on different  
6 types of activities for reaching these cooperative  
7 management agreement objectives.

8 One of the things we are very pleased with  
9 moving along both in Tahquitz Canyon and in the Palm  
10 Canyon area is reduction of fire fuels and exotic  
11 weeds that have been infesting the area. And those  
12 are the tamarisk and fountain grass. This is the  
13 activity that occurred over the past year. I don't  
14 know how many acres that represents. I think it's  
15 about 13 acres of removal areas that we have observed  
16 and removed fountain grass in areas we have identified  
17 for further debris and dead vegetation removal for  
18 both the protection of the canyon and surrounding  
19 community.

20 MR. MARCHAND: Your fire danger, am I  
21 understanding correctly that your fire danger comes  
22 from your exotic flora rather than from that which is  
23 native to the canyon?

24 MR DAVIS: That, and debris from  
25 natural material, too, that builds up. And the

1 buildup is such that – because we have, for example,  
2 Tahquitz and Palm Canyon, we have trails, we have an  
3 active tourism program in those areas. And so both  
4 the natural and the exotic debris buildup has  
5 interface with the human interaction, and there is  
6 natural environment that way. So if we let everything  
7 go and there were no people around, it would be  
8 different in how we handle that.

9 MR. MARCHAND: Absent people, probably  
10 the way it would clear out would be periodic fires.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Fires or  
12 flooding.

13 MR. SERVICE: How are tamarisk trees  
14 removed so they don't come back?

15 MR. DAVIS: It's kind of a two-phased  
16 process. There is a – I don't know the chemicals for  
17 it right now. But it changes. At first you remove  
18 the above-ground material. Chop it down. Then you  
19 apply an organic herbicide that is safe for the canyon  
20 areas and kills the plant itself. Gail, do you  
21 have – I don't have any more specifics than that.

22 MS. ACHESON: I don't either. There are  
23 different methods used. I'm not sure what they are  
24 using up there.

25 MR. DAVIS: If we can remove a whole

1 stump by mechanics, we would prefer to do that. You  
2 know the terrain as well as I do, and that's  
3 practically impossible in that situation. But we -  
4 we started off I think with certain kinds of  
5 herbicides that were licensed and approved for such  
6 treatment in the sensitive areas. And they were put  
7 on the bad list, so we got the new list and are  
8 constantly changing to meet EPA standards and that  
9 type of stuff. Do you have anything on that?

10 MR. FOOTE: No, I don't.

11 MR. SERVICE: Is it a successful  
12 program?

13 MR. DAVIS: Oh, yeah, it's successful.  
14 And the only limitation we have is really manpower and  
15 money to continue with it. But if you went back  
16 today, if you hadn't been there for ten years, you  
17 would be amazed - I have been back into - Jeff took  
18 me years ago into Mad Woman Springs and we had  
19 fountain grass in the higher reaches of the trail.  
20 And we could see small tamarisk creeping in. And I  
21 went in recently and it's remarkable how much has been  
22 improved. And the palm oasis, that's due also to the  
23 good rainfall we have had in the last couple years  
24 too.

25 MR. MORGAN: Someone actually went and

1 removed the grasses around the spring itself. I went  
2 there a couple of years ago and someone had done an  
3 excellent job. But someone had done it.

4 MR. DAVIS: Both Rocky and Ralph go up  
5 there regularly, which is our head ranger and our  
6 supervisor, canyon supervisor.

7 MR. MARCHAND: How do tamarisks  
8 propagate? Airborne or -

9 MR. DAVIS: I believe they are airborne.  
10 Certainly, I know fountain grass is airborne.

11 MR. MORGAN: So is tamarisk.

12 MR. DAVIS: It tracks in on the feet of  
13 people.

14 MS. ROSENTHAL: The worst thing you can  
15 do to spread it is to have a fire. That will spread  
16 it everywhere.

17 MR. DAVIS: This is just the statistics  
18 on what we have done. The follow-up slide of the  
19 Tahquitz Canyon removal, four acres cleared of debris.  
20 And 11 and a half acres cleared of mountain grass and  
21 one acre cleared of tamarisk. Four acres cleared of  
22 old tamarisk cuts. People will cut the stuff down.  
23 You see it even in the urban area. They will cut  
24 these down and leave them. That creates a dry,  
25 lighter fiber that spreads itself, so the same thing

1 that goes with fire. It basically spreads airborne.  
2 So next slide, please.

3 This is the debris I was talking about on  
4 the valley floor. You can see it there. This is the  
5 hiking area in the South Palm Canyon area. So -

6 Another thing we are doing in cooperation  
7 with BLM and also consistent with our own Tribal  
8 Habitat Conservation Plan, we do a variety of the  
9 species surveys, which will feed into a long-term  
10 management program with the protection of these  
11 particular species, either sensitive, threatened or  
12 listed species.

13 For example, we work with University of  
14 California at Riverside. They will bring out teams of  
15 biologists and students who will help us do those  
16 surveys. We are working with the Bighorn Sheep  
17 Institute and other folks with regards to the  
18 Peninsular Bighorn Sheep and actually looking for a -  
19 we are working on a cooperative program to mutually  
20 apply for a grant that will add collaring technology  
21 for the animals in this particular area.

22 On the field stuff, I mentioned we have  
23 helped the BLM with educational materials,  
24 underwriting field studies, activities, activity  
25 books, doing research. We have contributed to the

1 video. We have also helped with signage. I don't  
2 know if you have been in any canyon lately. The  
3 signage program has been pretty good.

4 We participated in the visitor center.  
5 One of the things we are working on right now with  
6 Gail's office is land exchange. We reported to the  
7 MAC previously on the land exchange. It really hasn't  
8 gotten very far since that time but we are ramping up  
9 and continuing to work on that.

10 One of the key things we did through this  
11 process, is it would be helpful to do the  
12 environmental review and the public outreach and meet  
13 all the federal requirements is to establish a tribal  
14 historic preservation office, which we did last year.  
15 And we were the 56th recognized nationally tribal  
16 historic preservation office designated by the  
17 National Park Service, which means that within the  
18 boundary of the reservation, the tribe is equivalent  
19 to and takes over the responsibilities of the state  
20 preservation office, state historic preservation  
21 office and all those duties. And that's designated by  
22 the National Park Service to the tribe directly. So  
23 we have our own tribal historic preservation office  
24 and has been staffed and is very active working very  
25 closely with Wanda at BLM with the cultural resources

1 studies and surveys and these surveys have been going  
2 on since 2001.

3 Part of the agreement is to complete a  
4 survey of the national monument Cultural Resource Area  
5 in the reservation as part of our objective to the  
6 cooperative management agreement and get a sense on  
7 the ground where those sensitive resources are and how  
8 they can be protected and what early signs there are  
9 to encroachment or development.

10 I think that's the end. So we are moving  
11 along on many fronts. We have lots of things going  
12 on. I think the public doesn't generally see that.  
13 So I'm very pleased to be able to make this  
14 presentation and to answer any questions and to come  
15 back in the future if you have any further needs or  
16 information to share.

17 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Bob and then Gail.

18 MR. BROCKMAN: What is the status of the  
19 Tribal Habitat Conservation Plan?

20 MR. DAVIS: The Tribal Habitat  
21 Conservation Management Plan has been adopted by the  
22 tribe, but that's the first step. The second step is  
23 we are seeking to get a 10-A permit from the Fish and  
24 Wildlife Service that would basically be comparable to  
25 the activity or the actions of the Coachella Valley

1 Multispecies Plan, and that's to have an incidental  
2 take permit for certain species within the reservation  
3 boundaries.

4 We are operating under the plan internally.  
5 However, Fish and Wildlife Service has yet to release  
6 our environmental impact statement for public review  
7 on the plan itself for the 10-A permit purpose. So  
8 that's where we are at right now.

9 MR. BROCKMAN: Is there action in any  
10 way related to the Coachella Valley Multiple Species  
11 Plan?

12 MR. DAVIS: Well, it shouldn't be. They  
13 are concerned about how both plans are presented to  
14 the public. And we are coordinating with the  
15 Coachella Valley Association of Governments and with  
16 Bill and Jim Sullivan very closely how the plans are  
17 drafted, what they contain. They are very  
18 complementary, but the Service likes to cookie-cut  
19 things. And if you don't fit into that square peg  
20 hole – so it's difficult for them to put their arms  
21 around it.

22 MS. ACHESON: This isn't a question.  
23 It's just a comment that we had a very good  
24 relationship with the tribe, and they have provided a  
25 lot of benefit to the Monument. We have a lot of our

1 collateral folks, like biologist, natural resource  
2 specialists and cultural specialists that do work with  
3 tribal folks in accomplishing a lot of these projects  
4 that Tom just enumerated there. So they are very  
5 heavily involved in the monument, and it's really nice  
6 to see it in one place. So we really thank you for  
7 all the efforts you bring to us and also the  
8 partnership. I want to continue that.

9 MR. DAVIS: The feeling is mutual.

10 MS. ROCHE: Tom, how many visitors now  
11 go into your two sites for visitors in Tahquitz and  
12 Palm Canyon?

13 MR. DAVIS: That's a good question. A  
14 couple of years ago - I don't have the current  
15 figures - but between Tahquitz and Palm, I think a  
16 couple years ago was around 250,000 annually. And I  
17 think it's grown.

18 MS. ROCHE: I would think so, because  
19 you have improved and opened up Tahquitz in a very  
20 different way. What do you do when visitors come in  
21 to help them understand that they are not only in  
22 Indian Canyons, but they are in the national monument?

23 MR. DAVIS: The rangers who give tours,  
24 they give them by appointment or by regularly  
25 scheduled tours like on the weekends, for example,

1 there will be a 10:00 or 2:00, whatever the case may  
2 be. They are schooled in all aspects of the grounds  
3 and the environment from the cultural history of the  
4 tribe, how that relates, how the natural resources  
5 relates to that. And also the monument, the  
6 protection of the sheep and the frogs and birds and  
7 all that good stuff. So they are very well schooled  
8 in all those aspects of things.

9           If you get a chance, even though all of you  
10 here are very familiar with the landscape, every once  
11 in a while it's very enlightening even for myself to  
12 go along with the ranger and listen to what they have  
13 to say and so forth.

14           I don't think – it's not a dominating part  
15 of the Indian Canyons experience. It's just an  
16 integral part. The monument reference, I mean.

17           MS. HENDERSON: I just wanted to mention  
18 that additionally in what you presented here today,  
19 you recently participated in a lovely breakfast a week  
20 or so ago – maybe not even that long – and I'm sure  
21 we are all aware of the many events that we have  
22 attended that were in some fashion supported a great  
23 deal by the tribe. And I would like the record to  
24 show the monument's appreciation for that.

25           CHAIRMAN WATTS: Thank you very much,

1 Tom.

2 MR. DAVIS: Good to see you.

3 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Our next agenda item –  
4 I learned my lesson real quick. I'm going to let Jim  
5 introduce Norm.

6 MR. FOOTE: This one I think you could  
7 have taken on your own, Gary.

8 Next agenda item scheduled for 10:30, and  
9 we are going to move it up a few minutes if that's  
10 okay, is the Highway 74 evacuation and route briefing  
11 presented by Norm Walker with US Forest Service. This  
12 was an issue raised and requested be added to the  
13 agenda, so we will have a presentation by Norm.  
14 Welcome, Norm. Thanks for coming.

15 MR. WALKER: I'm glad to be here.  
16 Appreciate the time.

17 MR. CRITES: I just want to quickly note  
18 that I was one of the people, at least, that asked to  
19 stick that on the agenda because we have issues having  
20 to do with obviously public safety and evacuation  
21 routes. We have issues having to do with fuel load  
22 along the highway all the way through the forest. And  
23 we also have issues that it's a state scenic highway.  
24 It is also the corridor by which most people actually  
25 experience the national monument, 80 percent of the

1 people who drive through the national monument, if  
2 nothing else.

3           So that corridor is remarkably important in  
4 terms of how it's viewed as a scenic asset as well as  
5 biological issues. So I thought it would at least to  
6 me be appropriate that we find out what the Forest  
7 Service is planning in terms of getting a project in  
8 that area.

9           CHAIRMAN WATTS: Jim, you will learn  
10 your lesson this time, too.

11           MR. FOOTE: Yes.

12           MR. WALKER: Good morning. I'm Norm  
13 Walker, I'm the division chief on the San Jacinto  
14 ranger district, San Bernardino National Forest. I'm  
15 in charge of the fire, fuel, and aviation assets on  
16 the San Jacinto Ranger District.

17           I started in the Forest Service on the  
18 Angeles National Forest in 1972. I worked on the  
19 Angeles, I worked on the Cleveland, and now on the San  
20 Bernardino. And all through that time, my experience  
21 has been in suppression and in fuels management.

22           So if you would allow me, I'm going to give  
23 you the history of the entire fuel history in the  
24 United States in a few minutes.

25           MS. HENDERSON: Protest.

1                   MR. WALKER:  If you place yourself in  
2  the 1800s, fire was the regulator of all flora and  
3  fauna in all Southern California because of lightning.  
4  Fast forward to the beginning of the Forest Service,  
5  fast forward to the 1920s when Congress decided that  
6  fire was destroying the timber we needed to build our  
7  homes, airplanes, decks of warships, everything.  They  
8  asked that we stop that process, good or bad decision.  
9  Fast forward to now.  We have done it.  We are 95  
10 percent successful with initial attack across the  
11 agency.

12                   The good thing is that saves a lot of  
13 houses.  The bad thing is that we have eliminated the  
14 great regulator from the ecosystem.  Some of the  
15 chaparral that you see, some of the forest that you  
16 see here on the San Bernardino are in an unnatural  
17 state because we caused that through successful fire  
18 suppression.  Question is how to get it back.

19                   And I'm going to give you my opinion after  
20 34 years of doing this is that the natural process is  
21 long gone.  It exited with the Baby Boomers after  
22 World War II.  I joked or tried to joke with some  
23 young people who didn't understand what I was talking  
24 about.  I said, "We are the Gong Show with 2 million  
25 people in the audience."

1                   And they said, "What is the Gong Show?"

2   Oops. I realized there was a generation gap.

3                   We have a very small track of land to be  
4 managers of here. And if we allow what some people  
5 call the natural process, we will never have fire  
6 insurance. And quite frankly, in the state the forest  
7 is in, we will have stand-replacing fires. What's  
8 left of the conifers will be gone and replaced by  
9 chaparral.

10                  So speaking more to the chaparral and  
11 getting toward the reason I was invited here, I  
12 looked at it very carefully from the intersection of  
13 Highway 371 and Highway 74 down to an area about a  
14 mile northeast of the fire station in Pinyon. Roughly  
15 Cahuilla Tewanet. Is that something we all recognize?  
16 Okay. That area is non-defensible. It can't be used  
17 as an escape route. The chaparral averages 15 to 20  
18 feet high, and the flame lengths that can come off of  
19 most of that red shank or ribbon wood will be at least  
20 20 feet high, more like 25. That's the width of the  
21 highway.

22                  So the problem is you cannot keep a fire at  
23 this point on one side of that highway or the other.  
24 Whatever side it starts on, it's going to go to the  
25 other side and it's going to go across 74 as if it

1 were not there. So the Highway 74 project proposes to  
2 put a buffer along each side of the highway to a  
3 maximum depth of 300 feet, where we thin out that  
4 chaparral. It's important to note that I have used  
5 the term "thin out." We are not going to put a swath  
6 from Highway 371 to an area just east of the Pinyon  
7 fire station.

8           What we want to do, we realize that it's a  
9 scenic highway and we are working the same type of  
10 project on 233, which is a scenic highway. But we  
11 have to make this area defensible for firefighters and  
12 we have to make it escapable for the public.

13           During the Old Fire, unfortunately without  
14 an organized plan and unfortunately without a fuels  
15 program on some of their corridors, people left very  
16 safe areas, and then were killed trying to escape that  
17 fire. The Barona Indian Casino is an area where you  
18 could have survived the Old Fire in a bathing suit and  
19 a lawn chair. But people left that area and drove  
20 towards Lakeside. And that area is more like the  
21 Highway 74 corridor and 371 coming this way towards  
22 about a mile past Pinyon fire station.

23           The reason I'm using that as a landmark is  
24 because what I am telling you has to do with chaparral  
25 and timber forests. When you transition into the

1 desert ecosystem, what I am telling you doesn't hold  
2 true. You begin to come into more rocks, thinner  
3 vegetation, a lot more grass, a lot less 20-foot  
4 chaparral. So as it comes down, it self-regulates  
5 into the desert. So the project is not proposed to  
6 come east or northeast along the highway that far.

7 All we want to do in that little corridor  
8 is maintain CALTRANS right-of-way. And that would  
9 be the width of the work. CDF has already started it.  
10 They volunteered to use their inmates to just thin out  
11 the access to that CALTRANS easement.

12 So the reason we need to go so wide:  
13 No. 1, it needs to be defensible. Firefighters are  
14 not required to die in the line of duty. In fact, we  
15 frown on that. It's hard to fight another day.

16 And the other thing is the visual. And  
17 Kermit Johanssen is here. He is a landscape architect  
18 with the San Bernardino National Forest. But Kermit  
19 has educated us to the fact that the wider you make  
20 the swath, the more gradual the visual distinction is  
21 back into the forest. So if we cut 20 feet in a 20-  
22 foot swath, we would have to cut everything. You  
23 would have this line. You would have this channel  
24 that followed Highway 74. What we want is soft lines  
25 that are not straight. The contour of the ground is

1 going to regulate some of that, accessibility will  
2 regulate some of that, but we want enough brush  
3 removed so firefighters have a chance of holding the  
4 road, and the public has a chance of evacuating  
5 through the road without causing more problems than  
6 they had before. So it's a take some/leave some  
7 patchwork that we are proposing.

8           We propose that it not be in straight  
9 lines, and hopefully when we are done, every fuel  
10 treatment we do takes a year or two to soften up, if I  
11 can use that term, to visually soften up. Every time  
12 you go in and do a prescribed burn, you get a black  
13 scar. A couple years the black scar is gone and you  
14 have grass again and light forest and it looks  
15 beautiful. But it takes a year or so to do that. So  
16 there is going to be an impact. I'm not trying to say  
17 we are so good we can do this without visual impact.

18           But if we do it correctly, a year, two  
19 years at the most from the time we do this project,  
20 somebody who had never been in this area is going to  
21 drive along that scenic highway and be very impressed  
22 and not offended by the way it looks. So it's the  
23 Highway 74. It actually runs past the Cranston. The  
24 243 project takes off at Mountain Center and goes all  
25 the way, roughly to Vista Grande station.

1                   MR. BORCHARD: So the evacuation  
2 route from Pinyon then is toward the 371 or down into  
3 the desert floor? Which is it?

4                   MR. WALKER: Towards 371 from roughly a  
5 mile or so this side of the Pinyon fire station.  
6 Because you will notice that it thins out fairly  
7 naturally any further down into the desert.

8                   MS. WELLMAN: I just wanted to make a  
9 comment. I think you guys are doing a great job along  
10 Highway 74 down below Spring Crest. It doesn't look  
11 bad. It just feels like it really will help. You  
12 left cactus alone, things that are not flammable are  
13 still there. And the brush is cut back. And I think  
14 you did a great job. I would like to see it all the  
15 way through.

16                  MR. WALKER: I think you give credit  
17 where credit is due. That's CDF working on the  
18 CALTRANS right-of-way. And that's just the beginning  
19 of the project. I would ask Buford that he might take  
20 a look at that as well, because that's only a sample  
21 of what we are trying to do. They took that on as an  
22 interim project because it's included in the agreement  
23 for the right-of-way.

24                  MR. CRITES: A question. 243 will be  
25 done how soon? Just a guess. I'm just saying when

1 would be a good time to look at that as an example?

2 MR. WALKER: If it's financed  
3 consistently, it would probably take a year, maybe  
4 two. It's a long stretch of road and a lot of rough  
5 terrain.

6 MR. CRITES: When would a piece be done?

7 MR. WALKER: They are working in the  
8 Dear Springs area right now is being worked as the  
9 start of it. We are going to move forward with some  
10 contracts to thin the plantations. If you don't know  
11 the history of 273, those pine trees you see along 243  
12 going north from Pine Cove, most of those are planted.  
13 That whole stand was wiped out in the Soboba fire in  
14 '74. And those are all plantations, and they are due  
15 for their first thinning, because if fire got in there  
16 they would be totally wiped out. So we need to thin  
17 and protect those. So that's going to start before  
18 October.

19 MR. HAVERT: In the Red Chain area, for  
20 example, what would be your target for the reduction  
21 in plant density? You are looking at 50 percent  
22 reduction when you talk about thinning or 80 or 60?  
23 Or if you have some target there?

24 MR. WALKER: In all of our projects,  
25 whether it's prescribed fire or whether it's a

1 roadside hazard, we never take more than 70. The  
2 average when we get done is 45 to 50.

3 MR. HAVERT: The goal is to keep the  
4 plant composition the same, but just to change the  
5 density?

6 MR. WALKER: Yeah. The elimination of a  
7 species is not in our agenda. Not that we could  
8 eliminate red shank. It loves drought and fire, so I  
9 think it's here to stay.

10 MR. HAVERT: What about private land?  
11 Is this something that you are really targeting the  
12 public lands? And then do you have to go seek  
13 permission from private landowners to do the same  
14 thing on their land?

15 MR. WALKER: Yes. In cooperation with  
16 CDF and Riverside County Fire and the National  
17 Resource Conservation Service, that's how we deal with  
18 private land. The Forest Service doesn't make those  
19 agreements on private land or tribal. NRCS is working  
20 towards an agreement with the Santa Rosa tribe where  
21 they have shown support for working this Highway 74  
22 through their land through NRCS. So hopefully we will  
23 continue that. It will not stop and start.

24 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Norm, will this process  
25 create a lot more access for people to pull over off

1 to the side of the road for whatever purposes?

2 MR. WALKER: I don't think so, simply  
3 because most of the Highway 74, it's not physically  
4 possible. Where you can pull over now, obviously you  
5 would be able to pull over later. Is that an off-road  
6 vehicle question? Or is that -

7 CHAIRMAN WATTS: No. I'm just wondering  
8 if the clearance doesn't allow people additional  
9 access points into the back country?

10 MR. WALKER: I don't think so. And that  
11 area is not closed anyway. I'm an off-roader. I hate  
12 to admit it. I own property out in the low desert and  
13 one of the myths is that we go tearing off cross-  
14 country. And at \$250 a tire, we don't do that in  
15 reality a lot. So as far as maybe walking into the  
16 forest, I guess -

17 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Yeah, shooters or  
18 something of that nature. Jeff.

19 MR. MORGAN: Yeah. My experience with  
20 ribbon wood or red shank, as you call it, is that if  
21 it burns, it looks great. There is nothing left.  
22 It's a great fire break. Five years later, you can't  
23 tell it from the stuff next to it that didn't burn.  
24 And my question is, Is your removal any more  
25 successful in reducing the ribbon wood in the long

1 term or is it something you are going to have to do  
2 every five years?

3 MR. WALKER: It's something we are going  
4 to have to maintain. The stuff likes to be cut. It  
5 likes to be burned, and it does well in drought. It's  
6 an amazing plant.

7 MR. MUTH: Your thinning, after you thin  
8 the brushes, is it a lop and scatter treatment? Is it  
9 a chipping treatment or a removal treatment with the  
10 debris that you clear? How do you handle it?

11 MR. WALKER: It's all three of those.  
12 We are going to remove; we are going to pile and burn;  
13 and if the area is thin enough and can stand it  
14 anyway, we may lop and scatter.

15 Lop and scatter changes the fire load.  
16 Takes it from aerial fire and puts it on the ground,  
17 which is a little better. But increasing the forest  
18 floor fuels is not generally preferable. So hopefully  
19 most of it will either be piled and burned or chipped.

20 MR. CRITES: The - obviously red shank  
21 and chemise come back very nicely and so on. So is  
22 there a protocol written in to make sure that the  
23 plants that don't return quickly, cacti, juniper, et  
24 cetera, are simply not thinned?

25 MR. WALKER: Yeah. The botanical review

1 will bring this out. And then the contract oversight,  
2 if it's being done by contractors, the contract  
3 oversight will attempt to ensure that anything that  
4 doesn't respond well to fire or cutting is left.  
5 Generally that's lower species anyway, the lighter  
6 soft chaparrals and whatnot. Most of everything  
7 that's large, broad leaf, or chaparrals are all fire-  
8 tolerant.

9 MR. CRITES: Second follow-up question.  
10 You will have to get permission from every private  
11 landowner if you want to go on and do that; right?

12 MR. WALKER: Correct.

13 MR. CRITES: So if you don't have  
14 permission, then, there will be blocks that aren't, so  
15 on and so forth. I know that as an example, Friends  
16 of the Mountains received a letter from the – what is  
17 the other group?

18 MR. MORGAN: Resource Conservation.

19 MR. CRITES: Yes. And let's put it this  
20 way: If I'm clueless as to who that is. I suspect  
21 most property owners wouldn't have a clue who the  
22 Resource Conservation something-or-the-other is. So  
23 the first response would be to throw it in the trash  
24 can as a recycle item. So it might be useful – I  
25 mean, the Forest Service carries more clout as a

1 requesting group than an acronym that most people  
2 wouldn't know, and potentially a blessing by the  
3 Advisory Committee that they think that such a project  
4 is valuable might be even more than just simply Forest  
5 Service saying - "ta-da."

6 MR. WALKER: Definitely. I'm glad to  
7 hear that. I didn't realize that point. I know the  
8 request you are talking about and did not realize that  
9 the fact that it was NRCS had anything to do with it.  
10 But you make a very good point.

11 MR. MORGAN: The NRCS, Buford, if you  
12 recall a few years ago, are the people who promised to  
13 rid us of tamarisk if they got the money. They got  
14 the money and not a single piece of tamarisk is  
15 removed.

16 MR. MARCHAND: With the climate being  
17 such, given the high problems around the Multispecies  
18 Habitat Conservation Plan, somebody, some landowner  
19 getting something from, as Buford says, an acronym may  
20 not even go to the point of round-filing it. They may  
21 decide that this is some evil tree-hugging  
22 organization and make it into a huge property rights  
23 battle.

24 And the concern that I think we need to  
25 address is that at some point in the last several

1 years, the nut cases have come out of the woodwork on  
2 an awful lot of issues, including on property rights.  
3 And ideas that seemed unexceptionable ten years ago  
4 are now being questioned, and ideas that seemed  
5 radical and far out ten years ago are now being  
6 seriously argued. We live in a society where Ann  
7 Coulter lives and anyone to the left of Franklin  
8 Roosevelt is treason.

9 MS. HENDERSON: Pardon me. Could we  
10 keep the discussion to the issue we are talking about?

11 MR. MARCHAND: I will do so,  
12 Ms. Henderson. But the point is, I think we need to  
13 be aware that no matter whether it's from an acronym  
14 or from the Forest Service, I think we are going to  
15 see people taking a property rights position, to hell  
16 with you and to hell with your intervention, and I  
17 will leave my forest acres as fuel-loaded as possible,  
18 just on general principle. And I think that's a  
19 danger.

20 MS. WADE-EVANS: It might be interesting  
21 to also note that the work that we are doing on hazard  
22 fill reduction we are doing with a lot of community  
23 groups as well. We've got Fire Safe Alliances in all  
24 the communities that are citizens that actually live  
25 in those communities that are concerned about the same

1 things that we are.

2 MS. HENDERSON: Can't hear you.

3 MS. WADE-EVANS: Citizens that live in  
4 the areas that are concerned about the fuel loading.  
5 And in fact, in many cases those folks are the ones  
6 disseminating the information. I guess what we have  
7 learned today is that maybe that reach needs to be  
8 extended somewhat, because this is really beyond a  
9 federal agency project or work or mission.

10 It's really been embraced by the  
11 communities that are affected by fire, and they have  
12 established their own Fire Safe Alliances, Fire Safe  
13 Councils working jointly with California Department of  
14 Forestry, County of Riverside, Forest Service, BLM and  
15 others to effect the outcome of where they live. And  
16 so what we are hearing today is maybe we need to  
17 continue expanding that communication in the area that  
18 we are talking about for this project.

19 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Buford.

20 MR. CRITES: I just know you can have  
21 all the Fire Safe Councils you want, but a lot of  
22 property owners live in Pasadena or they live in Ohio,  
23 or it's the First Federal Savings acting as a trustee  
24 for.

25 MS. WADE-EVANS: I just wanted to note

1 that there are more than the feds involved.

2 MR. MUTH: There is another need for  
3 evacuation intervention, and that's Santa Rosa  
4 Mountain Road. All the fire safety in the world along  
5 that highway, it's going to burn up and over. And  
6 anybody on that mountain is dead. Is there any  
7 evacuation site designated on the top of the mountain  
8 or somewhere? How do you get people safe out of that  
9 back country if the fire starts?

10 MR. WALKER: That's an excellent  
11 question, which leads to two more projects. Thank  
12 you.

13 One of those is already ongoing, but there  
14 is a proposal out. We cut down hazard trees along  
15 Santa Rosa Road. Roughly 2,000 of them.

16 MS. ROSENTHAL: You have a handout on  
17 this.

18 MR. WALKER: What we are proposing now  
19 to do, we could do that under a CE with - categorical  
20 exclusion. Because they were a hazard to traffic and  
21 to people, to get them off, which is a little more  
22 disturbance, we are doing FEPA on that right now to  
23 get those dead trees hauled off. Now, that, when it's  
24 finished, will only protect the road. It will make  
25 the road more travelable, less dangerous, same thing

1 we are trying to do on Highway 74.

2                   You bring up a good question about safety  
3 zones. We have discussed this, but we haven't moved  
4 on it yet because there is a lot of disturbance in  
5 building a safety zone. It's a huge disturbance. So  
6 it is not that we haven't thought of it. It's how to  
7 do it in an environmentally responsible way.

8                   The better thing we think to do – and this  
9 project I believe you have a handout for as well – is  
10 only in the concept stages right now. Santa Rosa-San  
11 Jacinto Mountains [National] Monument. Santa Rosa Mountain  
12 forest restoration. Start out by saying fire was the  
13 great equalizer. Fire controlled the number of trees  
14 per acre, brush per acre, the forest floor, fire  
15 controlled diseases and pests in the past. And if you  
16 are a student of the evolution of forest stages, late  
17 Ciril stage, if a forest gets that far, which Santa  
18 Rosa has, the next step is stand replacing fire.  
19 That's what follows the late Ciril stage in the  
20 natural course of things.

21                   If we do have a stand replacing fire up  
22 there, it will be as the name indicates, except that  
23 it may be a stand eliminating fire because of drought,  
24 of the natural succession, you would expect an influx  
25 of grasses and then soft chaparral and then hard

1 chaparral. And if there is any seed source left, 100,  
2 125 years from now, you would start to see trees  
3 poking back through that forest.

4 MR. MARCHAND: Would there be species  
5 continuity in that 125-year time period, or would we  
6 see a second growth forest consisting of different  
7 species altogether?

8 MR. WALKER: If there is a seed source  
9 and if you don't have another stand replacing fire in  
10 that 125 years, you would expect regeneration of what  
11 is there now. The problem that we have – and this  
12 refers to my quip about the Gong Show – we have a  
13 postage stamp piece of federal land in the big  
14 picture. And it's going to be 100 percent surrounded  
15 by population. Dirt is filling in. Everything west  
16 of the mountains is filling in.

17 The only thing that's going to be left in  
18 my opinion is federal land and tribal lands. So the  
19 impact is only going to get worse to the forest. And  
20 the accidental fires are going to prevent that  
21 100-and-so-many years from actually occurring before  
22 the next fire. And if a forest is only up about this  
23 tall when the next fire goes through, that's the end  
24 of the conifer forest. Then you just have the  
25 opportunistic species, which is chaparral.

1                   MR. MARCHAND:  When chaparral burns,  
2  it's like gasoline.  It just goes up like that.  I  
3  grew up in the Hollywood Hills.

4                   MR. WALKER:  Very good.

5                   So this proposal is for forest health, to  
6  do some thinning in the non-wilderness areas, and to do  
7  some pile burning, and eventually to introduce low  
8  intensity prescribed fire.  The thought is that if we  
9  could get a foothold just outside the wilderness, we  
10 may in fact be able to burn inside the wilderness at  
11 some point in the future.  And do it not for community  
12 protection, but for purely forest health reasons.  We  
13 are going to look to the monument funding for this  
14 because it doesn't -- the Forest Service funding is  
15 directing us towards community protection.  The  
16 monument funding should be hopefully for the  
17 betterment of the monument.  So we are hoping to get  
18 monument funds for that project.

19                  MR. SERVICE:  We are hoping to get your  
20 money.

21                  MR. WALKER:  Okay.

22                  MS. WELLMAN:  As it stands right now, is  
23 there no fire eradication within wilderness?

24                  MR. WALKER:  I'm not sure I understand.

25                  MS. WELLMAN:  Are you allowed to do

1 anything in wilderness to suppress fuels before there  
2 is a fire?

3 MR. WALKER: Yes. That is not excluded  
4 in the Wilderness Act. However, it has to be done by  
5 hand. And it is an extremely expensive, and by the  
6 nature of wilderness, hard to get to. We are looking  
7 right now at a pilot project in the San Jacinto  
8 Wilderness that is being pushed by the Wilderness  
9 Society and various other wilderness groups, the  
10 Sierra Club is represented, pushing us to burn in San  
11 Jacinto Wilderness. I'm pushing back a little bit  
12 because it has to be, No. 1, doable with the funds  
13 allowed, which would require the use of chain saws,  
14 perhaps ignited aerially by helicopter. So we have to  
15 work through this minimum tool process and decide  
16 whether the benefit is worth it.

17 And so far people have been very supportive  
18 of that. It's just a very tough project to pull off.  
19 If we are able to change some attitudes, perhaps, make  
20 some inroads, the future project in Santa Rosa should  
21 go easier.

22 MS. WELLMAN: I'm a little bit concerned  
23 about Pyramid Peak Wilderness. If that becomes  
24 wilderness, will you be able to go out there and  
25 reduce fire fuels?

1 MR. WALKER: That's an area that  
2 probably -- when I looked at that during the planning  
3 process, is so remote and rugged. Other than a  
4 management ignited fire with no lines, I don't know  
5 what we would do out there.

6 MS. WELLMAN: It's very close to a lot  
7 of different communities.

8 MR. WALKER: I know. And we want to  
9 work just outside those communities if we can get  
10 folks on board with it. The opportunity to work with  
11 the Pyramid people is pretty tough.

12 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Do I hear you say those  
13 groups are supportive of your use of chain saws in the  
14 wilderness?

15 MR. WALKER: No.

16 CHAIRMAN WATTS: I didn't think so.

17 MR. WALKER: As far as fires in the  
18 wilderness, it's up to me to figure out how to do it.  
19 But through the educational process and partnership,  
20 we are trying to get folks to reexamine what their  
21 values are. We know what the no-action alternative is  
22 in Southern California. We have seen it over and over  
23 again. So is it worth a stand-eliminating fire in the  
24 wilderness, or on a short-term basis, would it be  
25 worth taking chain saws in and aeriually igniting a

1 prescribed fire? That's the question to be decided.

2 MS. BERGMAN: I am chair of the  
3 Community Council. This brings up – the Pinyon Fuels  
4 Reduction Project is also a handout. And we have gone  
5 round and round with the balancing of the negative  
6 aspects of this fuel reduction. There is a proposed  
7 reduction around the community of Pinyon, the same  
8 thing that's been described along 74.

9 Our concern was along 74, that chaparral as  
10 a real threat to the community. Since the community  
11 already burned, the balance of the introduction of  
12 these – the nonnative grasses, the balance of opening  
13 up with this fuel reduction 600-foot swath, of  
14 allowing people to come in, use the area, the balance  
15 of the dust. I mean, we talked at great length about  
16 the cons that go into this fuel reduction proposal  
17 around the community.

18 We never balanced it with this proposal.  
19 And Council meets again Monday. And I believe we are  
20 still within the 30-day period. Council did write a  
21 letter of non-approval for the – specifically the  
22 Pinyon Fuel Reduction Project due to all the cons,  
23 none of the pros.

24 If the community has an escape route, if  
25 you are reducing the real threatening fuel which is

1 across the street, the Santa Rosa side, is there  
2 really a need to go in, particularly the plants we  
3 were concerned with, the cutting of junipers, the  
4 cutting of live plants and old growth and really  
5 fragile environment, to go in and cut that. If you  
6 propose this, may I come back to the Council and say  
7 that we would like to re-collaborate on the fuel  
8 reduction program around Pinyon?

9           We have asked and asked for a collaboration  
10 with Forest Service, not a proposal that it goes so  
11 against many community members' reason for living in  
12 Pinyon. Safety is of concern, but we realize we came  
13 into an area which was there first. And many people  
14 really do feel that to disrupt that environment and  
15 erosion issues and with no – we were told that this  
16 was a one-time cutting around this community and  
17 perhaps nobody would come back to reestablish that the  
18 protected zone was kept. We were also told that that  
19 protective zone might not even really protect the  
20 community.

21           So I'm asking, will this proposal which  
22 really does provide safety and which really does focus  
23 on the area that needs to be focused on, will that  
24 allow us to rewrite this program and work together as  
25 a community to do that? We were actually willing to

1 go out and tag those plants we didn't want to cut.  
2 There were some issues with the Cahuilla sites that we  
3 didn't want these areas opened up so they were easily  
4 accessible and viewed. We have a lot of troubles with  
5 the off-roaders that just show up and say, well,  
6 great, here is a trail. Let's use it. We have to  
7 balance this proposal with one that has caused a lot  
8 of upset in Pinyon.

9                   CHAIRMAN WATTS: It's bad timing, but  
10 it's 11 o'clock and we are supposed to be going to  
11 public comment. And I would also like to take a quick  
12 break. Is there anyone here that has signed up to  
13 make a public comment during the 11 o'clock time?

14                   Seeing none, Norm, can you just wrap up  
15 this discussion as far as your perspective? And then  
16 I will take one more comment from Jeff, and we have to  
17 move on, after Buford finishes it up.

18                   MR. MORGAN: Regarding the proposed  
19 Pyramid Peak Wilderness, there has never been any  
20 fuels reduction.

21                   CHAIRMAN WATTS: That's not on the  
22 agenda. We are starting to stray away so if we could  
23 just stay to the equipment.

24                   MR. MORGAN: It's about fuel reduction  
25 in the wilderness. There has never been any fuel

1 reduction in that particular area. There has been  
2 fire suppression on several occasions, none of which  
3 has required anything other than air drops and people  
4 positioning themselves on Pacific Crest Trail, which  
5 is accessible by road to the Forest Service easily.  
6 So just a point: It wouldn't change anything, period.

7 MR. CRITES: I guess just to reflect on  
8 Barbara's comment, I think - I appreciate, by the  
9 way, Forest Service bringing these issues here because  
10 you have a lot of people making a fair number of  
11 different comments. And I suspect there is nobody  
12 opposed to the concept of thinning, but people really  
13 want to feel, I think, comfortable that in that  
14 thinning process, that we, A) don't create a new area  
15 for invasive weeds; B) that it's done in a way that -  
16 it's the equivalent, I guess, of saying that a city  
17 has somebody come in and put in very good landscaping  
18 and then the property owner goes and hires the  
19 cheapest possible landscape trimmer and turns them all  
20 into balls and lollipops.

21 So at some point you are not going to be  
22 out there. You guys are going to hire contractors to  
23 go out and physically do all of this. And the feeling  
24 of assurance that relic plants, old plants, not only  
25 are protected in your perception, but also on the

1 ground when people are out there doing that and what  
2 we have at the end of this is a project, whether  
3 along Pinyon or along the highway, that is a model for  
4 cooperation and that people walk away from it saying  
5 this works. These folks did not only talk the job,  
6 but did the job.

7 MS. WELLMAN: I just wanted to make a  
8 comment. There have been several fires in that Pyramid  
9 Peak area over the last 100 years. There have been  
10 several fires through there. And I appreciate that  
11 everyone wants to protect the old growth junipers. If  
12 you were out there, you will see there are zero new  
13 junipers growing out there. So it's important. But  
14 at the same time, in 1994, which was the last fire  
15 that went through there, it wiped out everything. And  
16 we already need to have fire suppression again.

17 So I'm not too worried about chopping  
18 things down, thinning things out. It needs it really  
19 bad. It's a way better alternative than having a fire  
20 come through and do it. The fire in that area can go  
21 up the mountain, it can go to - San Gorgonio Girl  
22 Scout Camp is over there. There are several  
23 communities up there. It can go over to Anza. I  
24 think it's really important that fuel reduction is  
25 done in that area because the alternative is way

1 worse.

2 MR. WALKER: Wow.

3 CHAIRMAN WATTS: It sounds like you are  
4 getting plenty of feedback. Laurie.

5 MS. ROSENTHAL: Norm mentioned that  
6 Kermit Johanssen was here. He came a very long  
7 distance. The reason was a concern for scenic quality  
8 of Highway 74 Evacuation Route. Since we don't have  
9 any public comment, maybe after a short break, I would  
10 request that he do a short presentation. As I said,  
11 he has come a long way. And this might be a  
12 reassurance and also to help you visualize more what  
13 the project might look like on Highway 74.

14 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Excellent suggestion.  
15 If I don't see any other hands go up, we will  
16 implement the plan right now. Seeing none, we will  
17 take a break and come back in about ten minutes.

18 (Brief recess was taken.)

19 CHAIRMAN WATTS: We are going to open  
20 the meeting back up again, and Gail has an item she  
21 would like to deal with right away.

22 MS. ACHESON: I just wanted to say that  
23 Jeff, you mentioned that a large sum of money was  
24 given to the NRCS for weed management.

25 MR. MORGAN: It wasn't large.

1 MS. ACHESON: It was requested and they  
2 had made a request for one and a half million dollars.  
3 So what they actually got was \$2,000 as start-off  
4 money. And it came out of the field office budget.

5 MR. MORGAN: They still didn't remove  
6 any tamarisk.

7 MS. ACHESON: No, but I just wanted to  
8 make sure we had that straight.

9 CHAIRMAN WATTS: We are going to wrap up  
10 this item on the Highway 74 Evacuation Route briefing.  
11 Laurie, do you want to introduce Kermit?

12 MS. ROSENTHAL: Yes. It's kind of  
13 funny, because when I asked Kermit to come speak, he  
14 said usually he feels like a lone wolf out there. He  
15 is the only one talking about the visuals. And I said  
16 that the concern was about the visuals. And he said,  
17 you mean I can talk to my people? That wasn't a  
18 quote. But he was really excited about the fact that  
19 he could talk to some people that are really concerned  
20 about visuals, so that is our landscape architect.

21 MR. JOHANSSEN: It was refreshing.  
22 Somebody finally asked, what is it going to look like?  
23 Because we landscape architects always suit up for the  
24 game but we seldom play. So thanks a lot for asking  
25 me.

1                   There is a Forest Service strategy for  
2 visual quality and what we call scenery management  
3 system. And that gives us guidelines and the  
4 guidelines there to sort of keep us so that areas of  
5 high public use, public concern, what people want to  
6 see because even though no one ever says that the laws  
7 are written for the biologists, for the different  
8 resources, they have laws, visual quality. Although  
9 it's the number one recreation thing, things that most  
10 people are concerned with, it's very seldom talked  
11 about because it's hard to sort of make it plain.

12                   So we turn into the northern forest issue  
13 due to timber cutting. So that's kind of where we  
14 are. Highway 74 is important to us. I brought this  
15 piece of paper here not to worry you to death with,  
16 but there are two items on it worth paying attention  
17 to and the rest we will not worry about.

18                   I will go to the little graph things. So  
19 my media doesn't translate well to the electronic.  
20 That's why I have the hard paper thing just because it  
21 comes off auto CAD and pixels don't work the same as  
22 the drafting program.

23                   Down here in Item B, scenic integrity  
24 objectives on the first page, scenic integrity  
25 objectives is a definition we try to follow with

1 Highway 74 because it's a scenic highway. We try to  
2 make it look untouched. This one reads, "High is  
3 defined as landscapes where the valued landscape  
4 character appears intact. Deviations may be present,  
5 but must repeat the form, line, color and texture and  
6 pattern common to the landscape character so  
7 completely and at such scale that they are not  
8 evident."

9           This tells us for Highway 74, everything we  
10 do there should not be evident when we are done. And  
11 this has to do with sort of the quality of development  
12 we do, the character of the layout. And that's kind  
13 of where we go. So I am in the background saying, I  
14 can see that stamp and everybody goes, so what? There  
15 is not a lot you can do about some things. Low is one  
16 thing you can do, but you can't eliminate all the  
17 stumps, so it's not a perfect science. And I realize  
18 that and so does the Forest Service.

19           When we cut Highway 74, we are going to  
20 have contrast. And that's where you are going to see  
21 from the 15-foot shrub down to a stump down there,  
22 nothing if it's ground up. You might have mastication  
23 where it chews off to a level field and actually from  
24 a distance it looks good. You might have to cut it by  
25 hand and burn and pile it. You are going to have

1 piles for a while of charred embers.

2                   But the idea is there is a certain time  
3 line we are trying to achieve for this to get back to  
4 natural because this forest has always had disruptions  
5 and it always will. It's just a matter of how can we  
6 control it so it looks sort of like an intact  
7 landscape.

8                   And we have up here on the top where it  
9 says S-10, S-10 sort of comes out of the land plan.  
10 And because we knew we were going to have a lot of  
11 vegetative manipulation, we gave ourselves some slack  
12 and say one of – "temporary drops of more than one  
13 SIO level may be made during and immediately following  
14 project implementation providing they do not exceed  
15 three years in implementation." We know we are going  
16 to have disruption, but we think we can turn it back  
17 to what it was, kind of like when you drive a highway,  
18 the average person will look out and go, okay, looks  
19 good. Doesn't notice the action. That's our real  
20 goal, and that's what we are going to do.

21                   How we are going to achieve that, I've got  
22 kind of two things, before pictures and then a couple  
23 after pictures. And the before picture is kind of how  
24 they have this kind of layout of multitude of shrubs  
25 and scattered trees depending where you are. And the

1 idea that we would come in say we are going to sort of  
2 mark these things in here, so we have some clearance  
3 near the road, we have a 20-foot clearance. That can  
4 undulate from 15 to 25. You have some of that on 243  
5 already where CALTRANS has cut it back. You notice  
6 some stumps, but actually, a 20-foot cutback doesn't  
7 show up as much out there.

8           Then you have some openings in here. And  
9 the idea was that we have some openings so you don't  
10 get a clear shot all the way across. You can in some  
11 of these areas when you drive by. But it's not like  
12 if you leave a rough edge in here, theoretically you  
13 will have the openings, but it's not going to be a -  
14 you will have other plants in there. So when you are  
15 in a horizontal position, you are not going to see a  
16 lot of stuff. But when you come to the distance going  
17 down toward Hemet, you will be able to look in the  
18 distance and see these cut patches.

19           And we have some of this in Lone Pine where  
20 we used this system, but after awhile, it does blend.  
21 After a year or two, Lone Pine is - the patches are  
22 sort of growing indistinguishable. But even so, you  
23 reduced 50 percent of the landscape temporarily.

24           The rapid growth is really what saved us.  
25 We talked about the maintenance issue. It's a tough

1 one to maintain. We really should go back and burn  
2 these things, but we will keep some of these patches  
3 in here. When you come across here and some of the  
4 other areas where we have scattered timber and timber  
5 groves in here, it's easier to do. Some of the areas  
6 around Garner where they have trees, as long as the  
7 major trees remain there, we cut the underbrush and  
8 frankly, it looks better. The surveys done, most  
9 people prefer kind of an older forest that has sort of  
10 openings, large trees, sort of an open feel to the  
11 thing so you can kind of look into the forest.

12           Now, in my opinion, you don't have that  
13 because of the undergrowth. When you are done, we  
14 isolate we are not going to remove, the taller  
15 conifers. We are going to undercut the brush and  
16 remove the brush and standard trees as individuals  
17 about 30 feet. So you end up with more of this clear  
18 open area in here and then we have the shrubs in  
19 contrast with it that we do in patches. So if we can  
20 achieve it, that's what we are trying to do. At least  
21 we have a plan, we have a guideline that that's where  
22 we are headed.

23           I know Pinyon is a problem because Pinyon  
24 has more scattered stuff. But in the context of it,  
25 this is about 50 percent removal. So we have a lot of

1 the natural stuff that was replenished, the Pinyon  
2 trees, the rock outcroppings, the scattered yucca, all  
3 those kind of things that we can cut into these  
4 patches and cut around and that's a little bit how we  
5 intend to achieve.

6           This is a straight line because you are up  
7 against the property. And we have a latitude that's  
8 set in our foot cut, but it gets too much because a  
9 fireman may have to come up and shoulder with a hose  
10 or ax in here. He has to come in here and he has to  
11 decide where he can put a defensive line.

12           But at least this is a cluster of openings  
13 in here that they can operate and move around rather  
14 than straight moving through brush at the time of fire  
15 and having to dig a line in, cut a line in and out.  
16 So we have that sort of a strategy in Pinyon.

17           Again, if it's loose and open, it doesn't  
18 amount to much because you can't see it after it's  
19 been cut, almost, although you have less fuel on the  
20 ground to sweep through in the wind. But in the high  
21 patches, the shrubs you are cutting does make more of  
22 a difference and it is more pronounced.

23           So that's pretty much it. Thank you for  
24 your time. I can take questions; otherwise I will get  
25 out of your way and you can get back to business at

1 hand.

2 MR. SERVICE: Are there other chaparral  
3 areas that you have already treated in this manner  
4 successfully?

5 MR. JOHANSSSEN: Yes. Lone Pine. And  
6 notice they have done some sage cutting in Garner  
7 Valley. You look off to the right as you are going  
8 uphill and the sage brush flat area was cut here about  
9 a year ago, I think. About a year ago, Norm? And we  
10 did work in the trees across the way as well, I  
11 believe. So those two areas right now on 74 you can  
12 see they have had treatment. The other one that has  
13 this patch cut is on Lone Pine Road going to  
14 Wrightwood, the back road off the highway going to the  
15 back road up there. We have one large -

16 MR. SERVICE: Not Lone Pine on 395?  
17 Another Lone Pine?

18 MR. JOHANSSSEN: Not on 395. We are  
19 talking about Lone Pine Canyon up on the other road.  
20 Highway 2 is it called or whatever? One of these  
21 remote -

22 MR. MARCHAND: Back road to Wrightwood.

23 MR. JOHANSSSEN: The idea was the fire  
24 comes up Lytle Creek and goes over to Wrightwood and  
25 we had a patch cut and also treated the lower slopes

1 along the road.

2 MR. MARCHAND: Has this approach  
3 actually been tested in battle? Has this been fire  
4 tested?

5 MR. JOHANSEN: Well, I guess through  
6 history with other fuel breaks, because that's  
7 essentially sort of what it is, is a fuel break. And  
8 I can't say that the 50 percent fuel break is a -- in  
9 the old days they used to try to do that, but they  
10 never left 50 percent up there.

11 MR. WALKER: The dozers were a little  
12 indiscriminatory. The object is to get the fire to  
13 fall out of the overstory and get onto the ground.  
14 When the fire stays on the ground, firefighters have a  
15 chance. Also fire retardant from aircraft works when  
16 it gets to the ground. Believe it or not, a lot of it  
17 never hits the ground. It hangs up on dense canopy  
18 and the fire goes right under it. So when you open it  
19 up, the picture Kermit is showing you, majority of the  
20 retardant gets to the ground so it does work and it  
21 helps a lot.

22 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Thank you, Kermit.  
23 Building on what Norm had mentioned earlier about the  
24 forest becoming completely surrounded by development,  
25 I brought in a brochure out on the table out front

1 that the State Parks has put out detailing urban  
2 effects on our wild lands. I will pass it around and  
3 you are welcome to take one if you want. It's really  
4 quite good. It relates to the impacts of development  
5 on wild areas adjacent. With that, we will move back  
6 to our agenda where we left off before. Jim, under  
7 your news items.

8 MR. FOOTE: Yes, thanks, Gary. Our next  
9 agenda item will be the standardized agenda. You will  
10 find in your packet a single sheet that says standard  
11 agenda proposed. We have actually been following that  
12 today, and this is something that I had heard  
13 previously as a desired item. And that is to at least  
14 have some standard issues we report on each time.  
15 Some of these we typically do. We do have standard  
16 report items. Some of these can shift as the occasion  
17 warrants.

18 One of the new items again is the  
19 presentation of monument accomplishments by non  
20 federal agency, jurisdiction and partners. Tom Davis  
21 in his presentation was the first to step on board  
22 with that. And as I indicated earlier, hopefully by  
23 the end of this meeting, we will have another partner  
24 step up to the plate and provide that presentation at  
25 the next meeting.

1                   We have special reports and presentations.  
2   That was exactly what we just heard from Norm and  
3   Kermit on a special issue that comes up, whether  
4   requested by a MAC member or something we feel needs  
5   to be aired.

6                   Again, there is some standard times.  
7   Public comments always will occur at 11:00. We will  
8   always break for the public comments and then resume  
9   the schedule as needed. Right after that, you will  
10  see MAC work group reports. These are not – these  
11  are place holders, the ones you see here. These are  
12  not necessarily what we will end up with, but for the  
13  time being I have stuck in some things here and we  
14  will talk about that at the end of today's agenda.

15                  And that's the establishment of certain  
16  work groups to accomplish work outside of this forum.  
17  Then, of course, lunch. Lunch is variable. But  
18  typically we hold it at noon. We will pick up after  
19  lunch. Continuation of reports. I want to enter an  
20  item here as a standard reporting issue, and that's  
21  the update by the Friends of Desert Mountains. That  
22  will be something we can bring on board as we go along  
23  with our primary volunteer association. And we will  
24  get a report hopefully from the volunteer coordinator  
25  and monument liaison on a regular basis.

1                   So it's kind of a simple thing we fill in.  
2   And I think under today's agenda, you will see a lot  
3   of specific issues under the news item. Those are  
4   things that will fluctuate every single meeting,  
5   again, as the issues warrant having attention paid to  
6   them.

7                   MS. HENDERSON: Move approval.

8                   MR. CRITES: Second.

9                   CHAIRMAN WATTS: I don't think anybody  
10   objects.

11                  MR. FOOTE: Okay. Thank you, we will  
12   retain that standardized agenda and move on with this.

13                  Next issue, hang gliding update. This is  
14   something new. As you recall at the last monument  
15   Advisory Committee meeting in March, we had indicated  
16   that at this time we would not be reevaluating the  
17   plan decision. Clarification on that followed with an  
18   e-mail message I sent to all MAC members. That  
19   occurred. I think it's shown here on March 9, and  
20   that was to indicate that we will in fact make a  
21   decision by September 30th whether to pursue an  
22   amendment to the monument management plan with regards  
23   to the hang gliding decision.

24                  It does not mean, of course, we initiated  
25   that point, we made any progress at that point. It

1 will be whether or not we will proceed with an  
2 amendment, the outcome, of course, being determined  
3 through the public process of the amendment. So this  
4 is just a reiteration or in fact it's the exact  
5 replica of the text that I had sent via e-mail to the  
6 MAC members back in March.

7 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Questions?

8 MR. SERVICE: I just have a comment.  
9 When I joined the Tram Board three and a half years  
10 ago, I had tried to introduce the topic of hang  
11 gliding off the top of the tram. And I invited the  
12 operator of the hang gliding port in La Jolla to come  
13 up and survey suitability of hang gliding from the  
14 tram.

15 He said that there were no problems in  
16 certain terms of transportation of the hang gliders to  
17 the top of the tram. The problem was the takeoff.  
18 Also, the problem of recovery if somebody goes down.  
19 And ultimately, he said it was simply not feasible.  
20 Just to give you, you know, the perspective from our  
21 board was that we were open to talking about it. But  
22 the private operator said it just wasn't feasible.

23 So if we are going to have hang gliding in  
24 the Valley, it has to meet their specifications. And  
25 I understand other sites have been evaluated and not

1 found to be suitable. So I personally support hang  
2 gliding from Vista Point, but I'm perfectly willing to  
3 watch this process move forward.

4 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Thanks, Ric. Any other  
5 comment? Jim?

6 MR. FOOTE: Next item is the Dunn Road  
7 issue. As promised at the last MAC meeting, before we  
8 moved forward we needed to determine scope of the  
9 project and estimated cost. You have that before you  
10 now. It was just a few weeks ago that we did receive  
11 from Bob Ota, the engineer with the San Bernardino  
12 National Forest, who had visited the site, what the  
13 scope of the project would be and what those costs  
14 are.

15 You can see from the paperwork that the  
16 estimated cost of the actions he had identified is  
17 \$339,000. Just as with the hang gliding issue, we  
18 will make a decision with regards to this by September  
19 30th as to how they are going to proceed.

20 There are many issues tied to the Dunn  
21 Road, private lands, of course, being one of those.  
22 What we need to do to accomplish that. Look at  
23 purpose and need for repairs or not. And just a  
24 myriad of issues that we would need to resolve with  
25 the agencies prior to making a decision which way to

1 go. So at this point we are establishing that we  
2 will, consistent with the hang gliding issue, make a  
3 decision by the end of September on how to proceed.

4 MR. MARCHAND: You are indicating this  
5 is not a done deal?

6 MR. FOOTE: Correct.

7 MR. MORGAN: Quick comment. I'm looking  
8 at the budget here. You have \$339,000 for various  
9 items. I don't see the cost of the environmental  
10 reports for either the EIA or EIS or whatever you are  
11 prepared to do, and that can be substantial.  
12 Especially if you go the EIS, so you could add another  
13 50 to 100,000 onto that.

14 MR. FOOTE: Correct. This is the scope  
15 of the project itself, and it does not include the  
16 NEPA side, potentially CEQA side, include all those  
17 and those will enter into decision making process as  
18 we move forward. But I think the first issue is what  
19 is the correct thing to do here – really cost  
20 notwithstanding – then looking at costs, factor that  
21 into workload and everything else. But really, the  
22 first point is what should be done with Dunn Road?  
23 How do we proceed? Make that assessment first before  
24 we really focus too much on the cost issue.

25 MS. HENDERSON: I notice under findings,

1 there is one here that says one section impassable.  
2 And then under estimated cost, I'm wondering, does the  
3 estimated cost include making the impassable passable?

4 MR. FOOTE: Yes, it does.

5 MS. HENDERSON: So it's not impassable?

6 MR. FOOTE: Currently it's impassable.

7 MR. CRITES: But it's not unfixable.

8 MR. MARCHAND: That's not an impassable  
9 dream.

10 MR. FOOTE: The current section is on  
11 the southern end above The Orchard. It's a steep  
12 section that comes up to where the road flattens out.

13 MR. GONZALES-LYONS: Because we have new  
14 board members on board, when we do make a decision in  
15 September, maybe have some of the photos at least here  
16 of how it is so they can understand what the problem  
17 is so they can make a judgment call on that issue.

18 MR. FOOTE: Okay, good point.

19 CHAIRMAN WATTS: So noted.

20 MS. HENDERSON: We don't -- how much do  
21 we have to do with this decision that's going to be  
22 made? I'm hearing "we are going to make the  
23 decision," which I'm assuming is internally, and then  
24 in September you are going to report to us your  
25 decision?

1                   MR. FOOTE: We – clearly the MAC has a  
2 role for advising the federal agencies.

3                   MS. HENDERSON: Make us feel good now.

4                   MR. FOOTE: Uh-huh. So you are asking,  
5 where does the MAC come into this process? And that's  
6 a good question. If we were to suggest, then, that  
7 the – prior to making the final determination, if we  
8 present a proposal and then get a recommendation from  
9 the MAC and then make a decision subsequent to that,  
10 would that be something the MAC would prefer to have  
11 an opportunity to actually say, here, looking at all  
12 the considerations the agencies are needing to look  
13 at, present those to the MAC, the MAC makes a  
14 recommendation, and then we make a decision?

15                   MS. HENDERSON: I think if our voice has  
16 any meaning at all, to be part of the record, I'm not  
17 sure that the direction of the MAC will in any way  
18 affect the predetermined decision that you are  
19 bringing forward, but we probably would be clearly on  
20 record with what our recommendation would be.

21                   MR. FOOTE: There is another opportunity  
22 as well. That whatever decision we make is not the  
23 decision to in fact repair the road or not repair the  
24 road, because there is a public process under the NEPA  
25 side of things where we will identify alternatives,

1 analyze those alternatives, and make the final  
2 decision on how to proceed. So I think the – I guess  
3 maybe I'm less clear than I should have been as to  
4 what would occur by September 30th. And that would be  
5 a proposal on how to move forward at this point.  
6 Whether to initiate a proposal to in fact repair the  
7 road or to create trail out of the road or to do  
8 nothing at all. I believe that would be what would be  
9 forthcoming on September. But then subject to the  
10 public process once we move forward.

11 MR. MARCHAND: Let me concur with Terry  
12 on this. I went back and I read the enabling  
13 legislation for this body. And clearly the intent is  
14 to have the right to advise, to be consulted, and to  
15 warn. So I would hope that, again, rifting on what  
16 Terry said, this is not a preordained decision out  
17 there that makes un-meaningful our consultative  
18 function. Because if so, then we have just spent an  
19 awful lot of time dealing with something that is  
20 indeed, no puns intended, a "Dunn" deal. In that case  
21 what is the point? So I would hope that indeed the  
22 opinion of this committee would be taken into account  
23 in whatever decision ultimately is made.

24 MR. GONZALES-LYONS: I was also  
25 wondering about the funding. If you are looking at us

1 trying to find funding, do we have the funding? We  
2 have some of it? Need more? That type of situation,  
3 too.

4 MR. FOOTE: Certainly funding is an open  
5 issue that if you were to look at our current budget,  
6 you would say, we don't have anything programmed for  
7 this effort at this point in time, which would include  
8 the undertaking of any environmental impact statement  
9 or whatever else is required. That is not in the  
10 scenario right now. So that would have to enter the  
11 picture.

12 MR. GONZALES-LYONS: That would be  
13 brought to us?

14 MR. FOOTE: Ultimately I think the first  
15 step is a determination of need and purpose, which  
16 direction is the right one to go, and then take it  
17 from that in terms of, well, if it was a repair  
18 scenario, for instance, the huge question is how do we  
19 move forward with that in terms of funding? Would we  
20 ever have the funding? I don't know. I don't know  
21 the answers to those questions at this point.

22 MR. HAVERT: Weren't there several years  
23 ago a number of different organizations or agencies  
24 that commented in some context to BLM that they saw  
25 various needs for the Dunn Road to be passable? And

1 if my memory is correct there, are you providing this  
2 information to those different entities just to let  
3 them know what you have learned about the costs  
4 associated with trying to maintain or make the road  
5 passable again, and thereby, solicit their current  
6 input on it?

7 MR. FOOTE: Memory doesn't serve me very  
8 well in that regard, either, what that particular  
9 process would have been back then. Or - we do have  
10 the interested parties -

11 MR. HAVERT: Several years ago - and it  
12 seems to me, I think it was another outgrowth of  
13 litigation over something or other. And there were  
14 some discussions that I remember and I seem to  
15 remember - I think it might have been the tribe,  
16 possibly the fire department. Palm Springs emergency  
17 services. Anyway, there were a number of different  
18 entities that weighed in on their use of the road for  
19 various purposes.

20 MR. FOOTE: You are right. There have  
21 been those. Whether it was associated with the  
22 lawsuit with Center For Biological Diversity and there  
23 was an interest expressed there. There have been some  
24 uses of the road for rescues. I think one of the more  
25 recent ones last year is by the Cathedral City fire

1 department with a hiker that was experiencing health  
2 issues up on Dunn Road. The tribe has used it on a  
3 regular basis to access Palm Canyon for some tamarisk  
4 eradication efforts.

5 MR. HAVERT: Flood control has some  
6 alert stations.

7 MR. FOOTE: Those are all the myriad of  
8 factors I had indicated that we need to look at before  
9 we make a determination of really how to proceed.

10 MR. CRITES: Without debating about  
11 value or not, there was, as Bill says, the City of  
12 Palm Springs and the City of Cathedral City and the  
13 fire departments, flood control added to that, and it  
14 had not to do with the passability of the road at that  
15 time. It had to do with having access to the road.  
16 Who would be able to use it for emergency purposes and  
17 this and that and so on and so forth. So I suspect  
18 all those groups would want to know.

19 MR. FOOTE: Uh-huh.

20 CHAIRMAN WATTS: One final comment  
21 rather than a question. And it may be more for the  
22 board of directors than you. But in the event of our  
23 role as advising you on matters of the monument, I'm  
24 curious how it plays into your final decision making  
25 from a 17 to zero recommendation versus a 9 to 8 or

1 something of that nature, real close thing. So like I  
2 said, I don't expect an answer right now. But I would  
3 be curious to how that plays out ultimately in our  
4 role of advisors. If you have any comments off the  
5 top of your head – but I'm not putting you on the  
6 spot right now.

7 MR. SERVICE: I would like somebody to  
8 put into one statement what the issue is before us.  
9 What is the issue that this memo addresses? Is it a  
10 question of opening it? Is it a question of  
11 maintaining it? What is the question that we are  
12 dealing with?

13 MR. FOOTE: I can answer that. Really,  
14 the road, since its construction back in the late  
15 sixties and into the seventies, has been largely  
16 passable at all times to one degree or another. Last  
17 October, the torrential rains which focused on the  
18 road made it impassable in places. So this is really  
19 looking initially at a repair scenario that the road  
20 in places can't be passed by vehicle. It would take a  
21 repair.

22 MR. SERVICE: I'm under the impression  
23 it's been locked for 15 years, so it's not passable.

24 MR. FOOTE: Let me clarify that. That's  
25 a different question.

1                   In terms of the public access to the road,  
2   it's never been a publicly open road by virtue of  
3   this. There always have been locked gates at either  
4   end. Various parties over the years have managed to  
5   secure keys to those gates and have access. Some have  
6   not. The BLM's decision through its California Desert  
7   Conservation Area Plan Amendment for the Coachella  
8   Valley in 2002 was that on the federal lands portion,  
9   those remained closed to public access. However,  
10  would be available for administrative access, such as  
11  fire control for – we even identified a scenario for  
12  commercial recreational use during the fall months  
13  with approval of the private landowners. So from the  
14  accessibility issue that you may be looking at,  
15  public, no. Administrative – that becomes the issue.

16                   CHAIRMAN WATTS: We are done.

17                   MR. MARCHAND: Pun-heavy discussion.

18                   CHAIRMAN WATTS: I guess I'm up next.

19   Round Valley Meadow Erosion Project Update. I would  
20   love to report to you that we have got a natural  
21   resource project done as our contribution to the  
22   monument.

23                   However, I can tell you that the San  
24   Bernardino Valley Audubon Society filed suit against  
25   State Parks on our project – on the project, and I'm

1 told by Jeff today that the Sierra Club and the Center  
2 for Biological Diversity are potentially going to join  
3 that lawsuit. So we go to a hearing or court couple  
4 weeks, I think, in Riverside on that issue. So  
5 litigation is obviously going to play into whether  
6 that project goes forward or not.

7 MR. MORGAN: The hearing on the 26th of  
8 June is not anything to hear the case. It's the  
9 status of the participants within the case.

10 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Well, I will be there  
11 to report on it directly. Comments or questions?  
12 Jim. Laurie.

13 MS. ROSENTHAL: I'm not sure exactly  
14 regarding Dunn Road, if I'm clear on where we are  
15 headed with that. I heard Jim say, well, that he  
16 wasn't really clear probably because the board really  
17 hadn't discussed it regarding the role of the Monument  
18 Advisory Committee. And I don't know if we have  
19 actually concluded that discussion. I don't know.  
20 Maybe I'm the only one who is unclear if we have  
21 closure on that.

22 MR. MOWRY: The role of the Monument  
23 Advisory Committee is defined by the legislation and  
24 by FACA requirements. Their role is to report, is to  
25 advise and provide consent through the monument

1 manager and to the secretaries. And they can talk  
2 directly to the secretaries, whereas the agencies  
3 cannot. So they are involved in every aspect of the  
4 national monument, and they can make comment and make  
5 advisory, consent, you know, that's up to the Monument  
6 Advisory Committee as to what they would do.

7 MR. FOOTE: Maybe I should make a  
8 different proposal here. And that would be to have  
9 clarification, after much discussion internally with  
10 the board of directors by the next MAC meeting, which  
11 is September, have this fleshed out much further and  
12 look at what is the MAC's role at that point in time  
13 as opposed to saying by the end of September, we have  
14 a decision on how to proceed. We will have much  
15 greater clarification by the next MAC meeting. I know  
16 that's pretty wishy-washy.

17 CHAIRMAN WATTS: But we are used to it.

18 MS. ROCHE: You just took us a different  
19 path. I thought what you are saying is you are going  
20 to go back to that board to decide what our role is.  
21 I don't think that's the case at all.

22 MR. FOOTE: Not the role.

23 MS. ROCHE: Well, but that's what you  
24 just verbalized. What, as a member of the MAC, I feel  
25 should be done is that you come up with all your

1 recommendations, you do your internally whatever you  
2 come to us and you give us that information. And then  
3 this group would then decide should it be rescued,  
4 should this get in the priority of making it open.  
5 And we give you our input on the direction you are  
6 taking. Not that you come back and decide what our  
7 role is in advising.

8 MR. FOOTE: Thank you. I misspoke.

9 MS. HENDERSON: As long as we do  
10 understand that it's after your recommendation comes  
11 to us, our voice is a recommendation back to you. The  
12 determination is not made here. Only a  
13 recommendation.

14 MR. GONZALES-LYONS: Again, too, that we  
15 also are hopefully being partners in trying to also  
16 find funding. I mean, this is the main theme here is  
17 yes, we want things to be repaired, we want things to  
18 happen, but where do we find the funds? And we as  
19 different cities, tribes, organizations have that  
20 ability to look elsewhere to try to help us get that  
21 funding. So that would be part of our role, too, is  
22 trying to help get that to this organization.

23 MR. FOOTE: Would it be more appropriate  
24 if we brought back to the next MAC meeting more of a  
25 presentation on all the issues, what we feel may be an

1 appropriate response to those issues, what are all the  
2 costs associated with this, potential time frames,  
3 whatever we can pull together after conferring with  
4 the Monument board, at which point then perhaps the  
5 Advisory Committee could recommend a course of action?

6 MR. MUTH: Frank, did I hear you use the  
7 word "consent" several times? I would like to clarify  
8 what that means in the context of our role.

9 MR. MOWRY: Well, according to the  
10 Federal Advisory Committee Act, FACA, the Monument  
11 Advisory Committee was established by Congress to  
12 report directly to the secretaries, Secretary of  
13 Agriculture, Secretary of Interior. You do this  
14 through the monument manager. You can advise, and you  
15 can consent. You can consent by agreeing with  
16 whatever is provided by the agencies. We are  
17 consenting to agree with what they want to do. That's  
18 what I mean by "consent."

19 But you can make recommendations, you can  
20 make advisories as to how you think something should  
21 be done. And as Barbara said, as a group of concerned  
22 citizens you can go out and seek additional funding to  
23 help provide these projects through their conclusions.  
24 And that's all part of the aspects. You have a major  
25 role to play in this respect.

1                   MR. MUTH:  So we can consent, we can  
2  dissent, but we can't make a recommendation?

3                   MR. MOWRY:  No, you can make a  
4  recommendation.

5                   MR. MUTH:  We can't make a decision.

6                   MR. MOWRY:  Yes, decisions are going to  
7  be made by the agencies and by the secretaries.

8                   MR. GONZALES-LYONS:  But then like I  
9  said before, then us as cities, counties, tribes and  
10 organizations have that power to help them find  
11 funding, since they themselves can't lobby for those  
12 funds, the BLM, and they can't lobby.  We can.  We can  
13 in our individual capacities.  So if we have that  
14 information here, find out what it is, the need is  
15 here, and work with the organizations saying that they  
16 will be willing to work and find funding, then we can  
17 try to get something done.

18                   Because as we saw in the presentation  
19 before, there is a big need on this Dunn Road.  And  
20 how do we work together to get something at least  
21 passable where emergency vehicles can get through,  
22 other things that need to be going through that road  
23 can use that road.

24                   CHAIRMAN WATTS:  Gail has some  
25 clarification for us.

1 MS. ACHESON: If we go through this  
2 process and it was – after we go through this  
3 process, it was determined that the decision was that  
4 they were going to move forward with the project, we  
5 would lobby, we would go through our normal budget  
6 process to request funding – we wouldn't be lobbying  
7 for it – but we can ask for it. Doesn't mean we  
8 would get it. But we didn't get to the point yet  
9 where we are deciding this is something we are going  
10 to do. But we can ask for funding through our normal  
11 process.

12 MR. FOOTE: Can I ask if the committee  
13 has a recommendation on what they would like us to  
14 bring?

15 CHAIRMAN WATTS: No.

16 MR. FOOTE: I guess I'm hearing – and  
17 out of my own mouth here – various scenarios.  
18 Looking forward to the next meeting in September,  
19 where would the MAC like to see us in terms of  
20 presentation, decision, no decision? Is there thought  
21 on that from the membership?

22 MS. HENDERSON: I think it's fair for –  
23 you have geared up for making an evaluation by the  
24 September meeting. I think it's fair that you should  
25 continue that process, bring how you arrived at

1 whatever your recommendation is, whether it's to go  
2 forward or not, to the board. If you could get it to  
3 us before the meeting, and we come, discuss what your  
4 determination was. We make a recommendation, along  
5 with potentially, if the decision here is let's go fix  
6 this darn road, then we are going to come up with a  
7 plan to figure out where to get the money to do it.  
8 If all the negatives are great enough that we don't do  
9 it, then fine, so be it.

10 I'm looking at the minutes of the last  
11 meeting, and it's really clear to me was one of the  
12 issues we had was regarding the hang gliders and that  
13 we were closing the door to a possible amendment to  
14 the plan. And we carefully drafted that plan so there  
15 could be amendments. And we were all -- we were kind  
16 of closing that door before we even started the  
17 process.

18 So I think this was kind of a little bit  
19 out of -- let's put the plan to work if there is a way  
20 to do amendments, let's move forward. They may get  
21 done or they may not, but let's operate under the  
22 plan.

23 MR. CRITES: Just a thought. The hang  
24 gliding thing, you came in with a recommendation, or  
25 at least thought of a recommendation. There was

1 vigorous discussion and different points of view in  
2 here. The majority of this group said here is where  
3 we think the agencies ought to go. So all of a sudden  
4 you are in the position of having to either rethink or  
5 clarify or whatever it is, what you had already sort  
6 of decided.

7                   So I guess the thought would be on this or  
8 any other one, to say, here is preliminarily where we  
9 believe we may wish to go. And we would welcome your  
10 input as we go forward in making a final decision. We  
11 don't want to be in a place where you have said yes to  
12 this project. We say no to this project. And now, we  
13 stare at you and you stare at your colleagues and here  
14 we are. So bring us your  
15 nice-soft-fuzzy-whatever-you-thinks, but  
16 you-haven't-made-a-decision-yet thoughts.

17                   CHAIRMAN WATTS: Very good. Very  
18 articulate.

19                   MR. BROCKMAN: On the larger question of  
20 the role of the MAC, and I was going to mention the  
21 hang gliding issue as an example. We did make a  
22 recommendation, and it was a long discussion but there  
23 was a recommendation coming out of this committee for  
24 that purpose.

25                   It seems to me that since we were talking

1 about the standard agenda, the agenda might be  
2 structured in a way to at least lead us towards those  
3 areas in which this committee is going to or has  
4 suggested to make a recommendation on a variety of  
5 subjects. Because the agenda runs the gamut from  
6 public comments to information items to receiving  
7 file, and to discussion of some substantive matters in  
8 which it seems like it would be appropriate for this  
9 committee to render a recommendation back to the  
10 board.

11           So maybe that's something to think about in  
12 terms of how the agenda is structured. So that I know  
13 in our cities, we have consent agendas and we have  
14 action items. And that kind of leads us to know which  
15 ones you might be looking for a recommendation and  
16 which ones are simply just for filing.

17           CHAIRMAN WATTS: Real quickly, Bob, and  
18 then get to you.

19           The DMG uses a real great briefing process  
20 for the members of that to make decisions on that.  
21 Something along those lines of that on action items,  
22 it would really be helpful if we got that a week or  
23 two before the meeting. And those that aren't a part  
24 of the DMG, it's a great process to get information  
25 and then make decisions on that. I know you guys are

1 real familiar with it, so it may be something you can  
2 change or adopt or – just a suggestion. Bob.

3 MR. LYMAN: I guess I had some concerns.  
4 We have done this battle for a very long time with  
5 different items with this group. And I want to make  
6 sure we don't lose that. Riverside County uses  
7 municipal or community councils for various things.  
8 They do not have legislative authority. But we do  
9 value and count on their input to look at different  
10 items.

11 It is staff's job to bring that to the  
12 Community Council to say this is how far we have gone.  
13 We have heard your input. These are the  
14 possibilities. And then they make a recommendation  
15 back as a voice. And then in that final decision,  
16 that's weighed in and included with any of the public  
17 record. I just think that we need to make sure that  
18 we do that. We went through the planning process  
19 through this group, did all that, and now as we get  
20 closer to really critical decisions, we need to  
21 remember that that input is valuable. And that we  
22 continue down that way. Otherwise, don't have a  
23 committee.

24 MR. MARCHAND: What I think we are  
25 hearing is an emergent consensus. And I think Bob and

1 Terry and Buford and the other Bob, I think really  
2 nailed it very much on the head. I don't want to get  
3 into the substance of Dunn Road or hang gliding  
4 because I don't have the history before me, although  
5 the written transcripts were very excellent on filling  
6 me in on some of that.

7           But from a structural standpoint, we need I  
8 think to make sure – and I come back to what I said  
9 earlier – that the participation of this group is  
10 sufficiently meaningful that when we come back with a  
11 recommendation, it's not simply a recommendation that  
12 gives our blessing to what has already been decided  
13 elsewhere. And as Bob points out, what comes out of  
14 this committee ought to be highly persuasive to the  
15 ultimate policy maker when the department is involved.

16           Because if we are window dressing, then  
17 this committee is a waste of the taxpayer's money.  
18 But if we are going to advise, be consulted, warn,  
19 than our voices need to be listened to. And I do  
20 encourage bringing this discussion back for further  
21 discussion at the September meeting rather than trying  
22 to handle it under the rubric of news item.

23           CHAIRMAN WATTS: With that, lunch is  
24 here, so we are going to break for lunch because  
25 that's obviously a lot more important than comments.

1 (Lunch recess taken from 12:04 p.m. to 12:35 p.m.)

2 CHAIRMAN WATTS: We will get started  
3 after you return to your seats. We will get started  
4 and finished. I hope everybody enjoyed their lunch.  
5 Thank you, Terry.

6 MS. HENDERSON: You're welcome.

7 CHAIRMAN WATTS: We will resume where  
8 you left off. Laurie, don't bring up the Dunn Road  
9 again.

10 MS. ROSENTHAL: Have we gotten closure  
11 now?

12 MR. FOOTE: Back in session. I think as  
13 Tracy has taken notes, the last issue about Dunn Road,  
14 the monument manager appears incredibly confused. But  
15 I think I have clarification now, and I'm glad for the  
16 discussion we had because it really does I think set  
17 the stage for where we are going to go from here, so I  
18 appreciate all those comments.

19 On to the national monument project sign  
20 update. We actually have some visuals now. I didn't  
21 move as quickly forward on this as I had hoped. We  
22 have a few different prototypes here. We started with  
23 one, which this was a start of the boundary signing  
24 proposal. I went to Best Signs. We had this one  
25 made. A few comments we had, well, the background is

1 pretty bright when you get it out there. Very white.  
2 The sign may be a little large. But here is where we  
3 get to play with signage and compare signs and pick  
4 the best.

5           These, by the way, just to clarify, would  
6 be located at pedestrian and equestrian, mountain  
7 biking access points. So in other words, the  
8 trails – people are not going to be driving by these  
9 so we are not going to have to worry about speeds of  
10 60 miles an hour. These are people on foot, on  
11 horseback, mountain bikes that will encounter these.

12           And this is to ensure that when people  
13 access the national monument from all its points, they  
14 know they have actually come into the special place  
15 being the national monument which we don't have now.  
16 Well, this one changed, and we said let's tone it down  
17 a bit and tried a little bit different size with a  
18 little bit of a tan background, smaller size, same  
19 information.

20           So you have two variations of the sign. We  
21 can always mix and match. We can go with the bigger  
22 sign, with a tan background. But ultimately we want  
23 to come to resolution and decide on one that's going  
24 to be consistent.

25           MR. CRITES: How about a task force?

1 MS. HENDERSON: Let me take this outside  
2 in the sun. And have you seen it: And if this door  
3 doesn't open when I want back in -

4 MR. FOOTE: It's a large one.

5 MS. HENDERSON: Was it too bright in the  
6 sun?

7 MR. FOOTE: Well, you think in terms  
8 of - well, the stone isn't too bad. But in terms of  
9 what is the natural background, what you have out  
10 there in the natural environment, what fits best is  
11 what doesn't attract too much attention. You want  
12 people to see it, but they are going to be three feet  
13 away from the sign when they go by it. But you don't  
14 want a sign that you are going to see from a half mile  
15 away. Thoughts?

16 MR. CRITES: How about if we very  
17 quickly say how many want beige versus white and then  
18 big or small. All those in favor of beige. All those  
19 in favor of the awful color.

20 MR. GONZALES-LYONS: That's a bias.

21 MR. CRITES: How many want the visible  
22 larger sign?

23 MR. BROCKMAN: As opposed to the  
24 invisible.

25 MR. CRITES: How many want the smaller

1 sign? Mr. Chair?

2 CHAIRMAN WATTS: I just want to make a  
3 comment. I think we are getting way out in front of  
4 this a little bit too soon.

5 MS. HENDERSON: Do you want a task  
6 force?

7 CHAIRMAN WATTS: I could see a need for  
8 both sizes, depending on location. And it's a wild  
9 example. I know you are going to say there you go  
10 again. Right up there at 10,834 feet is the boundary  
11 line. So I guarantee you, I'm not going to put one of  
12 those right at the top of that mountain. But that's  
13 different from the boundary of the rest of it. Those  
14 things need to be worked out.

15 MR. CRITES: Use them both.

16 MS. HENDERSON: The big one, are you  
17 saying?

18 CHAIRMAN WATTS: The big one, or even  
19 one that size. And that leads into the wilderness  
20 boundary.

21 MR. FOOTE: That's the second one. But  
22 this is essentially non-wilderness. If you want to  
23 recommend or decide that we would go with a tan but we  
24 would have both sizes available, we can do that as  
25 well. At least -

1 (Applause from the audience.)

2 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Done. Done. Finished.

3 MR. FOOTE: By the way, I have heard  
4 from five jurisdictions, City of Indian Wells, Rancho  
5 Mirage, Cathedral City, La Quinta and Palm Desert, who  
6 wish to purchase signs and install them. So that's  
7 good news. And I will get you the information once we  
8 get to that point of how to purchase, where we want to  
9 put them.

10 CHAIRMAN WATTS: I just want to thank  
11 those cities that responded to my poorly written  
12 letter requesting financial support for this, but they  
13 came calling in right away.

14 MR. MARCHAND: We are going to charge  
15 you for the translation service.

16 MS. HENDERSON: Are you going to have a  
17 couple available so cities – we can take it to the  
18 cities, or is it just going to be on a Web page or  
19 what?

20 MR. FOOTE: That's a good question. Do  
21 you want to have some available to take to your  
22 Council to say, here is what we are going to be  
23 buying? Because, remember, the project here is for  
24 each individual city to actually contact the sign  
25 maker directly. They will know exactly what sign to

1 produce for you. And you just tell them how many you  
2 want.

3 MS. HENDERSON: I think they are going  
4 to want to see it.

5 MR. MARCHAND: I know our Council will  
6 probably micromanage the thing to death.

7 MS. HENDERSON: I do too, but we close  
8 that door.

9 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Does the bottom part of  
10 that give you the phone number reference? Does that  
11 give cities options to maybe put something in that  
12 space that suits their needs?

13 MR. FOOTE: Well, my guess is if you put  
14 a city number, they will say "who"? This takes them  
15 to our monument visitor center. This is that number.  
16 So any information about the national monument, they  
17 are going to have a ready answer for them.

18 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Mr. Crites.

19 MR. CRITES: I would like to request  
20 signs for next Thursday to present to Palm Desert  
21 Council so they can put an order in.

22 MS. HENDERSON: I want them right after  
23 he has them.

24 MR. GONZALES-LYONS: Same time; right?

25 MR. FOOTE: I don't know how quickly -

1 you can do this one. This would just have to be -  
2 this is going to have to be a tan sign.

3 MR. CRITES: They will understand that.

4 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Those that need them,  
5 contact him directly. He will take care of it.

6 MR. FOOTE: I will get with Best Signs  
7 because we have already programmed money for purchase  
8 of these signs. So we will know to start purchasing  
9 for ourselves, BLM, Forest Service. For the entities  
10 that may not want to be involved but would approve of  
11 putting the sign there, we will furnish those.

12 MR. CRITES: How much?

13 MR. FOOTE: I don't know yet and I  
14 asked - well, let me say this: The individual who I  
15 was dealing with earlier, I requested what would 50  
16 signs cost, because cost goes down dramatically as I  
17 order more, was not yesterday to provide that. This  
18 single sign setup, production was \$138. The price  
19 will substantially go down when you start to talk in  
20 numbers. Setup costs a lot.

21 MS. HENDERSON: Are individual cities  
22 going to be ordering 20 and 30 at a time? When you  
23 put an order in for however many you need, can't we go  
24 through you and increase that number to get that lower  
25 cost?

1                   MR. FOOTE: Let me pursue that. To see  
2 if in fact we were to tell the sign company that we  
3 are going to be ordering X numbers, the cities may be  
4 coming in on their own, can they get the price for all  
5 of them so that you can purchase directly without  
6 doing this whole money management thing where you pay  
7 us. We don't want to do that. So we will see if we  
8 can get a best deal from Best Signs, which, by the way  
9 is how that was produced.

10                   Now, the wilderness signing issue is  
11 something a little bit different. And on the  
12 wilderness side – and I want to say before I show  
13 this – the lettering is not proportional to what I  
14 requested or would wish it to be. So with that said,  
15 and I do have a page of what it should look like, that  
16 notwithstanding, here at least for the wording again,  
17 these things would be bigger and smaller and different  
18 fonts because they really didn't do quite what I  
19 wanted them to do.

20                   So entering Santa Rosa and San Jacinto  
21 Mountains National Monument within San Jacinto  
22 Wilderness, US Forest Service, a few things going on  
23 here; one, if we were only to say entering Santa Rosa  
24 San Jacinto Mountains National Monument they may have  
25 thought they just exited San Jacinto Wilderness. And

1 of course, that's not a good message. We need to make  
2 sure we ensure it's there. No phone number, not  
3 encouraging people to use phones inside wilderness.  
4 So we are not going to give them the number. So this  
5 is trying to keep the sign as minimal as possible.  
6 And we also have -

7 MR. MARCHAND: "Within" is one word, by  
8 the way.

9 MR. FOOTE: Yes, I pointed that out to  
10 them that that would be joined. Essentially it would  
11 look a little bit more like this in terms of the type  
12 and relative fonts, et cetera.

13 We can go - our famous "dogs prohibited"  
14 signs, this can go smaller as well. We can get  
15 something less obtrusive. This is 12 by 9, and this  
16 is something 10 by 7. So we can go smaller, same  
17 colors, so just asking for thoughts on this one.  
18 Anybody have -

19 MS. ROSENTHAL: State park also, Jim.  
20 The State Park Wilderness.

21 CHAIRMAN WATTS: That concept looks  
22 workable.

23 MR. FOOTE: So we can get this adjusted  
24 to reflect the state parks, but this is more typical  
25 of what we would put in wilderness. The other one is

1 a little too flashy.

2 Sizes. Anybody have thoughts about size?

3 Smaller?

4 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Smaller.

5 MR. FOOTE: Kind of like this size? We  
6 can convert this to this, at some state parks, get the  
7 types and sizes to look more like this. So the  
8 emphasis is more on not so much "entering," it's  
9 entering and then the national monument within San  
10 Jacinto Wilderness and smaller type, US Forest  
11 Service.

12 MR. MORGAN: We also have a Santa Rosa  
13 wilderness, as well.

14 MR. FOOTE: Well, you are correct, but  
15 where you enter – where we could put in fact this  
16 sign is we are not actually in the wilderness. You  
17 are actually in a monument, as we could actually put  
18 the sign outside wilderness. We have that option.  
19 These are specifically for where you are already  
20 within a wilderness area and now you are entering the  
21 monument. It's a little different concept. So these  
22 we could put on a smaller size outside the wilderness  
23 boundary for Santa Rosa.

24 MR. MORGAN: I was thinking of Martinez  
25 Canyon. You are well into the monument before you

1 enter the wilderness.

2 MR. FOOTE: Correct. So since you are  
3 outside wilderness, it can look like this. Trying to  
4 keep the number of permutations down only because cost  
5 starts to go up every time you figure out a new sign.

6 Then we will produce it at the smaller  
7 level, change the font, reflect State Parks where  
8 needed. And we will identify at least recommendations  
9 where the signs should go, put those points on a map,  
10 and say to the cities, the various jurisdiction what  
11 we think might work best.

12 CHAIRMAN WATTS: That was easy.

13 MS. HENDERSON: I might remind staff  
14 that that's taken six years, so "easy" -

15 MS. WADE-EVANS: Easy to the newcomers.

16 MR. FOOTE: I have only been doing this  
17 for four months.

18 CHAIRMAN WATTS: The next item. I  
19 should point out to give you a chance to get your  
20 paperwork there, per the committee's recommendation  
21 last meeting, the chair went ahead and sent thank you  
22 letters to the entire assessment team for the work  
23 they did, so that was accomplished.

24 MR. FOOTE: As far as the monument  
25 assessment, I'm going to have a copy in your packets.

1 This was the assessment you saw presented at the last  
2 Monument Advisory Committee meeting. But this is an  
3 approved copy with Mike Pool's and Barry Winegart's  
4 signature on it. But it's essentially – the  
5 recommendations are all what you've previously seen.  
6 So we don't revisit this at this point in time. But  
7 we are just providing it to you. This is on our Web  
8 site so the public can see this, has access to it.  
9 And I think you all got color copies, did you not?

10 MS. WADE-EVANS: Maybe there is not  
11 enough to go around.

12 MR. MORGAN: Highway 74 monument sign.

13 MR. FOOTE: Pardon me. I skipped right  
14 by that. Buford will be glad to know that the  
15 former – and we can call it former Highway 74  
16 monument sign – is now in storage.

17 MS. ROSENTHAL: You need to have a  
18 funeral.

19 MR. FOOTE: So work will begin Monday,  
20 expected to take a couple weeks to complete the  
21 process of installing the new one. And as time  
22 allows, work on the Santa Rosa gate will occur at the  
23 same time.

24 MS. HENDERSON: Speaking of Highway 74  
25 national monument sign, when I approached the visitors

1 center again recently, Wednesday, Thursday, and I made  
2 that last curve on Highway 74 and thought, oh, my God,  
3 where am I going to make a U-turn, I missed it, it  
4 reminded me again that we need a sign before the curve  
5 or maybe even a little distance before the curve so  
6 that people know they have not passed it. And they  
7 are not going to have to try to make a U-turn at the  
8 point up there where everybody does whatever they do  
9 and come back down looking for the visitors center.  
10 Is it possible? Is there still a question over  
11 control of 74? It's still CALTRANS? And you guys  
12 aren't trying to take it over, are you? I know you  
13 did on the traffic signals or something.

14 MR. CRITES: The City of Palm Desert  
15 will own 74 to the boundary.

16 MS. HENDERSON: And this is outside the  
17 boundary, the entrance to the monument?

18 MR. CRITES: Entrance to the visitors  
19 center. Right at the edge, so if you want a sign  
20 downhill -

21 MS. HENDERSON: Yeah, downhill. There  
22 is nothing. There is nothing south of the entrance.

23 MR. CRITES: Create one, go stick it in  
24 the ground.

25 MR. MORGAN: City of Palm Desert has a

1 sign maker.

2 MR. CRITES: Stick it in the ground and  
3 by the time CALTRANS discovers it's in their  
4 right-of-way, hand it to us and we will go stick it in  
5 the ground.

6 MR. FOOTE: I heard that last  
7 suggestion. We will produce a sign, give it to the  
8 City of Palm Desert, and they will stick it in the  
9 ground.

10 MS. HENDERSON: I will meet him out  
11 there late one night.

12 MR. FOOTE: I think that will be the  
13 course of action on that.

14 CHAIRMAN WATTS: That took how many  
15 years, too?

16 MS. HENDERSON: It really is -

17 MS. ROSENTHAL: Is that an action item?

18 MR. CRITES: Yes, that's an action item.

19 MR. GONZALES-LYONS: For the individual  
20 citizen of Palm Desert.

21 MR. CRITES: Go stick it.

22 MR. FOOTE: The monument will endeavor  
23 to create the sign, and we will pass it on to Buford  
24 for installation.

25 MR. MORGAN: How about the size of the

1 sign?

2 MS. HENDERSON: There is a sign out  
3 there. It's on the other side of the curve. And just  
4 duplicate the sign and move it back.

5 MR. FOOTE: We have a use for the sign  
6 we just put in storage.

7 MR. GONZALES-LYONS: He won't put that  
8 one up.

9 MR. FOOTE: These are the kinds of signs  
10 that do need to meet minimum specifications because  
11 they are highway signs, and we will do that. It will  
12 be the required size and not exceeding that.

13 The next issue I'm going to defer to Frank  
14 on the BLM News.Bytes request.

15 MR. MOWRY: I sent everybody an e-mail  
16 already on – the monument members, at least. This  
17 applies strictly to the members of the MAC. The  
18 News.Bytes, which is California BLM newsletter that  
19 comes out electronically each week, I think it is, has  
20 made a request that they want to start focusing on  
21 some of the monument members. I gave everybody an  
22 example of what the page looks like that has a person,  
23 a mover – a member of a RAC or Advisory Committee  
24 with a photo on it and bio. That's one example.  
25 There is also an example of the guy.

1 MS. HENDERSON: I got you, lady.

2 MR. MOWRY: That gives you an example of  
3 what it is they want to do. We need a photo of you  
4 and a copy of the bios as listed on the Web site right  
5 now. Please review those and if there are any  
6 corrections to it, we need to make those. We gave you  
7 a list of questions. We may need to add some  
8 additional information for the bio for the purposes of  
9 the particular article that the News.Bytes want to  
10 run. So please take a look at those items and then we  
11 need to make arrangements for you to get a photo. You  
12 can provide me with a photograph or we can schedule  
13 another time to get a photograph taken. Just head and  
14 shoulders.

15 MR. MARCHAND: JPEG work?

16 MR. MOWRY: Yes. That's fine. In that  
17 respect, when you look at the bio, this brings up  
18 another issue and the issue is privacy. As everybody  
19 filled out their application to become a member of the  
20 MAC, there was a little blurb in there that talked  
21 about your privacy rights. Under this case, we, the  
22 agencies, are not allowed to give out any information  
23 about you other than your name and your e-mail  
24 address, basically. Anything that's not publicly  
25 known is not permitted under the privacy act.

1                   I provided you with the form that has some  
2 box inside there, and if you would care to check off  
3 any of those boxes, please feel free. If you want to  
4 add information, please feel free. This meets the  
5 requirement for us to have a written approval from you  
6 to say we can release information as appropriate.

7                   We wouldn't want to give it out to anyone  
8 that would be spamming you. Gary Hunt with the  
9 Wilderness Society had requested your addresses to  
10 send you some information. I could not give him your  
11 mailing addresses for that purpose. I could only give  
12 him e-mail addresses and he could send it to us and we  
13 in turn could send it out to you. And that's the way  
14 it works at this point.

15                  If anybody wants to send something to you,  
16 it has to come to the agency first before it comes out  
17 because we are not going to get in a situation where  
18 somebody who has something wild under their back side  
19 to send to you, we don't want you getting junk mail.

20                  MR. MARCHAND: Question. I know that I  
21 usually prefer to receive my official mail either at  
22 my City Hall or my law office. So I can give you that  
23 address. Is that going to cause you a problem?

24                  MR. MOWRY: No, not at all. I gave  
25 everybody a copy of the contact list. I would

1 appreciate it if you took time to find those  
2 corrections, make whatever corrections need to be  
3 made, and make sure we have an updated list so we can  
4 contact you if we need to. There is the possibility  
5 that the DFO may need to call an urgent meeting for  
6 something. I can't say that it will or will not  
7 happen, but if that does occur, we need to get in  
8 contact with you. So we have this information  
9 ourselves internally. So if you can look through  
10 those, plus it gives you all a chance to have that  
11 information because I don't know how many of you  
12 actually have the information yourselves and you  
13 should have that information as being members of the  
14 same committee, so being able to communicate with each  
15 other.

16 MS. WADE-EVANS: What is the DFO?

17 MR. MOWRY: Designated Federal Official.  
18 The Designated Federal Official represents both the  
19 United States Forest Service and the BLM, which in  
20 turn also means the Secretary of Agriculture and  
21 Secretary of Interior.

22 MS. WADE-EVANS: Sorry.

23 MS. HENDERSON: Question: You e-mailed  
24 this out, and I was unable to open that file. I think  
25 I let you know that. Has that been corrected? Not to

1 say that I haven't already goofed up on it sitting  
2 here.

3 MR. MOWRY: That's neither here nor  
4 there. I can get you as many copies of that as you  
5 want to get. If you do have problems opening  
6 anything, let us know so we can try and figure out  
7 what the problem is. Because sometimes it's saved  
8 wrong or the way it gets mailed out, so I need to make  
9 sure that those things get corrected if that ever  
10 occurs.

11 MS. HENDERSON: Then I think you would  
12 like to get this one with the original signature back  
13 today.

14 MR. MOWRY: Today, tomorrow. I'm not  
15 going to say it has to be done this instant. The  
16 sooner we can get it. You don't have to sign it if  
17 you don't want to. This is not a requirement because  
18 you fall under the Privacy Act, and under that, we are  
19 going to follow your directions, and that's all it  
20 comes down to.

21 That's basically all I have for this unless  
22 there are some other questions. If you want to get  
23 your photograph this afternoon, I'm here. I have a  
24 camera. Otherwise, get in contact with me and we will  
25 schedule our time and I will come out and take your

1 picture, or send me a picture.

2 MR. FOOTE: Thanks, Frank.

3 Moving on quickly, we are at one o'clock,  
4 so hopefully we can wrap this up fairly soon, although  
5 we have one major issue to deal with.

6 Update: Each of your packets included an  
7 article from the Desert Sun about honoring Mary Bono  
8 for her efforts for both the support of the National  
9 Landscape Conservation System and the national  
10 monument in particular. Out to represent Kathleen  
11 Clark was Elena Daly, who is the director of the  
12 national conservation system for BLM. We did take her  
13 on a tour, short tour of the monument on Wednesday.  
14 We had lunch out, hosted very kindly by the Agua  
15 Caliente out at Andreas Canyon, followed by a visit to  
16 the visitors center where she did meet members of the  
17 MAC as well as Friends of Desert Mountains.

18 And I think this was a great opportunity to  
19 showcase what was going on here, the way this monument  
20 really is moving so far, I think, forward with  
21 partnerships and what potential we have to even do  
22 more. She was very grateful for the opportunity to  
23 see that and saw this as potentially a good template  
24 for other monuments to follow. So appreciate all the  
25 MAC members that did have a chance to meet with Elena.

1 Highway 74 graffiti removal, trash  
2 collection. This is still in process. Working with  
3 the City of Palm Desert on an issue to hopefully keep  
4 track of and address as needed the graffiti removal  
5 and trash removal up on Highway 74. We have had a few  
6 hits of graffiti in the last couple of months. The  
7 City has taken those on and removed the graffiti. We  
8 do have some trash issues, obviously at Vista Point  
9 and Arrowsmith trailhead as well. I did receive a  
10 proposal from the City about what that would cost.

11 And this is now where Buford and I need to  
12 talk turkey. And we like the Cadillac, we love the -  
13 we would like to have the Cadillac, but I don't know  
14 if we can afford the Catty at this point, and we need to  
15 figure out what would work best for all of us. The  
16 figures I did receive were a reflection of 100 percent  
17 funding by the monument versus any kind of shared  
18 funding, so we will want to pursue that some more.

19 MR. CRITES: Just as a note, CALTRANS  
20 should be responsible for getting rid of graffiti on  
21 Highway 74. So now we are past that issue. It's  
22 obviously the entrance to not only Palm Desert but for  
23 a lot of people the distance over the whole valley and  
24 certainly the national monument. So the idea was that  
25 the BLM would contract with the City and use our

1 graffiti removal crews to go up there and nail it  
2 right away so that it doesn't have a chance to attract  
3 more of them.

4           But it's not an inexpensive process. And  
5 so this would be a spot for some partnerships. And we  
6 are doing it in the proposal at cost. Simply what it  
7 costs to pay our crews for materials. Included in  
8 this also is going up and picking up the trash at  
9 Vista Point on a weekly basis, because again, we can  
10 argue about who it belongs to and who ought to do it,  
11 but the long and short of it is nobody is going to do  
12 it.

13           MS. HENDERSON: Can we budget any of our  
14 discretionary funds towards this project, the \$500,000  
15 or the 493, whatever.

16           MR. FOOTE: We would have those options.  
17 It's just a matter of balancing whatever else would  
18 drop out of the picture.

19           MS. HENDERSON: I understand priorities,  
20 but that could be a place to -

21           MR. FOOTE: Yes. I would hope, that as  
22 Buford suggests, there might be an opportunity for  
23 partnerships more than just City of Palm Desert,  
24 recognizing that as an entrance to the valley as a  
25 whole, it reflects upon the whole community. And to

1 the degree we can all pitch in, it's a good point to  
2 pursue, I believe.

3 MR. MORGAN: I think those discretionary  
4 funds, as Terry called them, some of that money was  
5 actually initially, originally designated for law  
6 enforcement. And I think graffiti removal can be  
7 loosely tied to illegal actions. So therefore, it  
8 could come under the law enforcement feature of the  
9 funding.

10 MR. FOOTE: To expand upon what Jeff is  
11 saying, the one-time moneys that come to the monument  
12 are for implementation of the monument plan. Monument  
13 plan is very broad and has a lot of options for us to  
14 expend those moneys. And I agree, this would fit  
15 under one of those options.

16 MR. MORGAN: Try and budget it.

17 MR. FOOTE: I think at this point I will  
18 discuss this further with Buford and see how we stand  
19 and how do we move this among the community members to  
20 see where we can get more support.

21 Late items, surfaced after preparation of  
22 the agenda. This ties to October event with City of  
23 La Quinta that there is a dedication of a bronze  
24 relief of the mountainous area south of the La Quinta  
25 Cove with trials identified on it. We worked with the

1 contractor to provide the GPS information on trail  
2 locations for her to incorporate into the bronze. The  
3 City will be having a dedication of that in October.  
4 And this would be a great opportunity to start to  
5 bring monument events to the various cities throughout  
6 the valley.

7                   We are looking at doing something where  
8 we – the Pass had a birthday party in October for the  
9 monument. Something different. I received a voice  
10 mail message from Kathie Barrows yesterday after  
11 having suggested we might do this. And this is one  
12 option to bring the monument film to the La Quinta to  
13 really expand upon all these opportunities. And I  
14 would see this as perhaps the beginning of a series of  
15 these where we take monument events to the various  
16 cities in partnerships with the cities. So we are not  
17 just doing things with the visitors center, but trying  
18 to move up and down the valley with these kinds of  
19 things. And this is a great place to start.

20                   MS. HENDERSON: Would we want to look at  
21 an October date at this committee meeting today and  
22 focus in on that and see how it works with the City,  
23 options A or B?

24                   MR. FOOTE: I have asked staff to make  
25 sure we don't conflict with anything else that we

1 already have scheduled and is out there in the  
2 public's eyes. And then I will work with your staff  
3 to identify the best date.

4 That's it for that.

5 We are down to the after lunch items and  
6 essentially finish up here quickly. But I don't know  
7 how quick.

8 Establishment of potential MAC work groups.  
9 Recognizing that in these kinds of meetings that we  
10 hold quarterly for only a few hours, a lot of work  
11 really can't get done. And I think we need to  
12 reinvent or reestablish work groups. As you recall  
13 when we were developing the monument management plan  
14 we identified a number of work groups that did a lot  
15 of the legwork on the particular elements of the  
16 monument management plan, brought them back to the  
17 MAC, and then we moved through that process.

18 I think we need something similar now. And  
19 it really does touch upon some of the things earlier  
20 said today about how does the MAC get involved in  
21 priority setting of workload, what needs to be  
22 accomplished. And this is the place to do it. We  
23 have a work group, at least one that looks at what are  
24 the budget – what is the budget situation; what are  
25 our options; what are the priorities for work so that

1 when the agencies start to pull work plans together  
2 and look at this, we have already established some  
3 priorities and recommendations by the MAC.

4           So if these – this approach, at least for  
5 that particular one, sounds like a good idea to this  
6 body, I would hope that we would, before we adjourn  
7 here today, identify a committee with membership. And  
8 then I'll move forward to try to pull together some  
9 agenda issues and set a meeting date so that we can  
10 start to tackle these problems.

11           CHAIRMAN WATTS: Everybody like that  
12 idea? Jim and I were talking. We think that the  
13 composition should be pretty small. It doesn't have  
14 to be huge. And that will make it more efficient and  
15 less of a burden on your time as well. So we have  
16 four – actually, three.

17           MR. FOOTE: Let me – because I want to  
18 clarify some of these other ones.

19           CHAIRMAN WATTS: But just thinking along  
20 the lines, the monument manager would be a part of  
21 each one, as well as the deputy monument manager and  
22 they could alternate, but we would have some monument  
23 staff participation as liaison on those work groups  
24 and then maybe three committee members to make up the  
25 work group itself. So that's kind of our thinking.

1 We are certainly open to other ideas. Laurie.

2 MS. ROSENTHAL: Another idea, especially  
3 for those that don't really have the time but feel  
4 passionate about an issue, is to assign somebody else  
5 that's not part of this committee that would report  
6 back. So, for example, let's say a committee member  
7 here is interested in three work groups but doesn't  
8 have the time. It's also a way of expanding out  
9 participation from the community is to ask somebody  
10 else like, let's say, Terry would ask somebody else  
11 from La Quinta to be her representative at one of  
12 these work groups and then report back to Terry. It's  
13 another alternative.

14 CHAIRMAN WATTS: I think that's entirely  
15 possible, and if it's not, then those that have  
16 expertise could probably make that determination at  
17 that time because they are going to be representing  
18 the MAC. So we want to make sure they are kind of in  
19 line with our way of thinking or where our interests  
20 lie.

21 MR. MORGAN: Under the MAC, the way it's  
22 made up now is when there is a member appointed, there  
23 is also an alternate appointed at the same time. Am I  
24 correct?

25 MS. HENDERSON: There hasn't been.

1 That's correct, but there hasn't been.

2 MR. MORGAN: There is going to be in the  
3 future. So the alternate could take the place of the  
4 appointed member.

5 MR. FOOTE: Again, how many work groups  
6 is a function of need. I was under the influence of  
7 fuzzy thinking when I wrote down trail plan  
8 implementation on the next one. Then after that, I  
9 was reflecting we already have a trails management  
10 subcommittee tied to the Coachella Valley MSHCP, who  
11 then, under the structure for the nonfederal  
12 recommendations report – and correct me if I'm wrong,  
13 Bill – to the reserve management oversight committee  
14 for those. And for the federal land recommendations  
15 coming of that reports to the MAC and funneled down to  
16 the respective implementing agency on trails plan  
17 issues.

18 So this one I think we already have a  
19 mechanism in place to deal with that. We don't want  
20 to be redundant or contradictory to that direction.  
21 So unless somebody objects, I would suggest we not  
22 have a trails plan implementation work group  
23 specifically.

24 MS. HENDERSON: But have a what?

25 MR. FOOTE: It's already covered in

1 terms of the trails management subcommittee which  
2 comes out of the MSHCP. That's already an addressed  
3 issue and a forum for dealing with trails management  
4 issues wherefrom the recommendations come back to  
5 their respective implementers, if you will, federal  
6 agencies, it will come through the MAC and from the  
7 RMOC for the nonfederal side of things. So that one.

8           This third one, I'm not even sure where to  
9 go anymore on communications outreach. And I'm hoping  
10 that we will have a short discussion on where we are  
11 trying to go with this, actually. As you know the  
12 history has been we have been through the branding,  
13 morphed into communications. And I guess I don't -  
14 discussing it with Gina the other day, I'm not sure we  
15 have a firm grasp of what it is exactly we want as a  
16 product here other than, let's say, communication plan  
17 that's a little more detailed.

18           Is there a simple project, a management  
19 message needed to be able to distribute among  
20 jurisdictions so when they talk about the monument,  
21 that it's consistent wording? I'm not sure where we  
22 need to go with this. I'm sorry Mary left the room,  
23 but she has been heading this up in the past looking  
24 for some input. And I see Terry is ready and willing.

25           MS. HENDERSON: I think that there was a

1 need to have some vetting, if you will. There was –  
2 we were looking at maybe a different name, which was a  
3 really broader perspective. We were looking at a lot  
4 of different things. I think the fact remains that we  
5 now have a film that has been produced and that says  
6 who and what we are. And if somebody here hasn't seen  
7 that, you really need to see what it is.

8 I don't know that there has ever been a  
9 vote taken, but I doubt seriously that there was a  
10 majority for changing the name. It is what it is.  
11 Maybe I'm hearing this wrong. There was discussion on  
12 the logo. I'm not sure that there was a majority to  
13 change the logo, so I think we moved beyond that.

14 I really think that the whole kind of  
15 branding thing has run through the Coachella Valley  
16 like wild, and I think we are already branded. You  
17 look out the window and you see the mountain and there  
18 it is. So I really think that we could start moving  
19 off of this and maybe deal with these one issue at a  
20 time. Signage was a big issue. We have taken a big  
21 step today on that signage. So I'm really delighted.  
22 I think the next big step we need to take – and we  
23 kind of started it with the Friends – is our Web  
24 page.

25 And apparently they are hung up on their

1 kind of coordinator or whatever it is they are trying  
2 to bring on board, but that's really where if we want  
3 to talk about communication, we should focus on that  
4 one issue. And when we get it done, that we look and  
5 say, okay, are we still lacking something in  
6 communication? But the signs are well on the way and  
7 let's just get that Web page done and a decent Web  
8 number that people can plug in and there it is. I  
9 don't know that we need to stay on this as a big  
10 agenda item.

11 MR. MARCHAND: This may - I may be  
12 opening up a real can of worms here, but something to  
13 keep in the back of our minds as we go through any  
14 kind of communication outreach, I tend to view  
15 communication and outreach as something that is  
16 ongoing because you always have to make sure that the  
17 constituency knows you are there and doing something  
18 beneficial.

19 But I think one of the things we need to be  
20 aware of is the parks and monuments sometimes get  
21 short shrift because the constituency is not often  
22 as - strike that. The constituency is not listened  
23 to sometimes as often as it should be. And I think  
24 it's important that we make sure that the valley as a  
25 whole and our representatives in Sacramento and

1 Washington City understand that what is being  
2 accomplished in this monument is significant,  
3 beneficial, important. And the decisions that are  
4 going to be made are going to affect not just us, but  
5 the people who come after us.

6           And in that sense the communication that we  
7 need to undertake is about developing and educating a  
8 constituency for this monument that sees it as  
9 something really important to preserve, protect and  
10 defend.

11           MS. HENDERSON: Which we can do on the  
12 Web page.

13           MR. MARCHAND: Among other things.

14           CHAIRMAN WATTS: It sounds with your  
15 comments, Paul, and Terry, your comments on the Web  
16 page would indicate that we do need some type of a  
17 standing work group to deal with those types of issues  
18 and it may fluctuate as far as where you are going.  
19 It's an ongoing program and with the mechanisms  
20 already set up where they are within the valley  
21 already for tourism and marketing and that type of  
22 thing, and certainly with the marketing efforts that  
23 the Tram undertakes now, those are golden  
24 opportunities to fold in the monument message and  
25 continue to market and outreach. So I don't see a lot

1 of hands going up, but now that I have heard that  
2 discussion, I would tend to go back and concur that we  
3 need to probably establish that type of a work group.

4 MR. MOWRY: If I may, basically what you  
5 are saying is correct. The big issue I think over  
6 that when we last approached within the MAC itself was  
7 the need for us to find some commonality. Because as  
8 it seemed, everybody was going in different directions  
9 when they were trying to express the message for the  
10 monument. And it's going to happen. All the  
11 jurisdictions and the agencies and the various  
12 departments, they are going to be having different  
13 aspects of the message. But there should be a level  
14 of commonality for all to be able to get on that page.

15 You said the Web page could have something  
16 that could address everybody's needs. And I think  
17 that is what is the need that everybody saw in regards  
18 to communications aspects.

19 And that's the kind of guidance and kind of  
20 the stuff that Mary was trying to get across also.  
21 The concept of changing the name, changing the logo,  
22 those were never really intended to be considered, but  
23 we somehow got sidetracked on those issues. It was to  
24 try and find some kind of common base we could all  
25 use. And yes, each individual is going to have a

1 different direction they need to go in for their own  
2 specific purposes, but there still needs to be that  
3 common direction.

4 MS. ACHESON: Just from what I have –  
5 we have been through all the stuff Terry talked about.  
6 Maybe what it is, is not a communications plan but a  
7 communications committee that addresses issues that  
8 come up. Paul talked about should it be an ongoing  
9 thing. So maybe it's not a communications plan but a  
10 committee that looks at different issues. Do we have  
11 areas where we need to have commonality or issues that  
12 need to be addressed through a committee that needs to  
13 be informed?

14 So I don't see us having a formal plan  
15 unless it's needed. But this communications committee  
16 could look at different issues that may affect  
17 different jurisdictions and keep us focused on where  
18 we need to do the outreach and opportunities where we  
19 can partner and do outreach. I think it's a good  
20 standing committee that could help.

21 MR. FOOTE: I would think that in a  
22 committee or work group of this nature, Friends of the  
23 Desert Mountains would play an integral role because  
24 they have looked at opportunities here for outreach  
25 and communications, Web page development. So I would

1 see them as an important part of this work group.

2 MS. HENDERSON: I take it you are  
3 looking for volunteers.

4 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Not quite yet. When he  
5 wraps up the discussion as far as the groups and the  
6 numbers, then we will go around and ask for some  
7 participation.

8 MR. FOOTE: Just the last one, to  
9 quickly wrap up. Ad hoc, just on specific issues that  
10 come up. For instance, previously mentioned in other  
11 meetings, that we may form a work group to address the  
12 hang gliding issue, pursue that further. Same issue  
13 could come through Dunn Road issues. It depends. It  
14 would be really issue driven, single focus. It could  
15 be one meeting. That could be the end of the work  
16 group. But we will leave that option open and  
17 obviously membership won't really be developed until  
18 we have identified the issue and the need for the ad  
19 hoc group.

20 CHAIRMAN WATTS: So I'm hearing two  
21 standing committees and then as needs arise or come  
22 up, we can convene another that deals specifically  
23 with those issues. Is everybody okay with this?

24 MR. MOWRY: You already have committees  
25 in existence. Communications committee is in

1 existence, just haven't met because nobody is going to  
2 be able to show up. Hang gliding committee. There is  
3 also supposedly a Dunn Road committee, but I think  
4 Buford is in charge of dealing with the private owners  
5 primarily. So there are several committees already in  
6 existence.

7 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Who is on the  
8 communications committee besides Mary?

9 MR. MOWRY: Mary is the chairman. I'm  
10 on it. Laurie is on it. Gail is on it. Kathie  
11 Brennan was on it, although I don't know what her  
12 status is at this point. And of course, all work  
13 groups are open to the public, so public members can  
14 come to them also.

15 MS. ROSENTHAL: Jeff attended.

16 CHAIRMAN WATTS: It sounds like there is  
17 a lot more agency personnel on that committee than MAC  
18 members. So we are going to concentrate on MAC  
19 members, I think.

20 MR. MOWRY: It would be good to have  
21 more members of the monument budget committee on  
22 board.

23 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Gail first.

24 MS. ACHESON: I think the folks that  
25 were meeting when we were talking about branding, I

1 think that was different than what we are talking  
2 about now. That was a specific task we were working  
3 on. If we are talking about a communications outreach  
4 committee, that may be a different makeup with fewer  
5 members. So I think it's different than what Frank  
6 was suggesting that we already had a committee. That  
7 was working on a task.

8 MR. MOWRY: Actually, no, it wasn't. It  
9 was more of a communications committee.

10 MR. MARCHAND: At the risk of being  
11 accused of being a process diva, which sometimes I am,  
12 my suggestion is it sounds to me like we may -  
13 Frank's warning to us implicitly is we may be  
14 reinventing a wheel here. And perhaps the thing to do  
15 rather than hash this out at this meeting, would be to  
16 have this committee receive information well prior to  
17 our next meeting about what committees are out there,  
18 what their current membership is, what they are  
19 currently working on. And then as an action and  
20 discussion item for the next agenda, to formulate, if  
21 need be, revise committees that are there, so we don't  
22 create a second communications committee if one  
23 exists. And make that an integral part of the next  
24 meeting's agenda so we can have I think a discussion  
25 that may be a little bit more informative than the one

1 we are having.

2 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Jeff and then Buford.

3 MR. MORGAN: All these existing  
4 committees or work groups never seem to meet or  
5 produce anything. I suggest we cancel them and start  
6 again with people who may be interested in the issues  
7 and may be able to attend and may be able to produce  
8 some worthwhile material.

9 MR. CRITES: The hang gliding under Al's  
10 guidance did what it was supposed to do. It came back  
11 with a recommendation, did its work, done. I agree  
12 with Jeff. All committees are hereby done. If people  
13 want to get on them, get on them. If not, get off.

14 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Anyone disagree with  
15 that thinking?

16 MR. MARCHAND: No. That cuts the  
17 Gordian knot.

18 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Sounds like everybody  
19 is in agreement that we should go ahead and abandon  
20 the existing committees and start fresh.

21 At this point, having heard what Paul said,  
22 we could either try to table that for the next meeting  
23 or, Jim, do you have some thoughts on that to go ahead  
24 and try to - I know the first committee, the  
25 assessment, implementation, basically a steering

1 committee we are talking about, they are going to roll  
2 their sleeves up and get involved and bring back those  
3 recommendations to the committee. That one is going  
4 to be an operational committee more than anything  
5 else. That's rather important, and I think sooner  
6 rather than later is probably the way to go on that  
7 one. But that's just my opinion.

8 MR. FOOTE: I agree.

9 CHAIRMAN WATTS: So if we could think  
10 about three volunteers for that committee, we could  
11 get that one started. I see one. Anyone else besides  
12 Buford?

13 MR. BROCKMAN: This is a question, not a  
14 volunteer. My question is, Is there a task that is  
15 waiting to be accomplished between now and our next  
16 meeting? Because my real concern is that we establish  
17 these work groups and then we don't have tasks ready  
18 for them to get into. And that's why they languish  
19 and we disband them. If there is a task, please tell  
20 us now.

21 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Signage, trash pickup,  
22 we have heard about graffiti removal.

23 MR. BROCKMAN: I'm referring to the  
24 assessment implementation steering.

25 MR. FOOTE: That's a very broad one.

1 And at a minimum, we could start to look at the  
2 recommendation from the national monument assessment  
3 team as to how we move forward. I referenced we would  
4 be dealing with this one later. That went to that,  
5 what I called the universal budget approach in terms  
6 of trying to blur the administrative lines between all  
7 the agencies and how do we collectively look at the  
8 monument in terms of budget needs, accomplishments and  
9 trying to establish some mechanism of reporting,  
10 again, accomplishments and budget needs that may work  
11 for all the parties. At least it could be stapled as  
12 something to a particular city's budget requests or  
13 whatever. Something that reflects monument need. And  
14 that's something I think we can move forward on  
15 quickly.

16           The other is we are always I think running  
17 up against deadlines on reporting back at the last  
18 minute to Washington office on what are you going to  
19 do with this money? That kind of thing can happen.  
20 So we would like to be ready to say that here is what  
21 we intend to do and we vetted this through the MAC and  
22 everybody agrees upon these priorities. And if we  
23 keep putting that off, we are going to get a request  
24 where we are going to respond. We won't have any  
25 input from the MAC and there it goes once again.

1                   So usually on those kind of issues, sooner  
2 the better. Let's immediately start to look at  
3 implementation of the management plan, what kind of  
4 priorities on a specific basis we have, what costs may  
5 be tied to that, so that we can, I think, report back  
6 on what we think we are going to do with money in a  
7 better fashion than we have previously.

8                   MR. MARCHAND: Is what you are  
9 suggesting essentially, given the lengthy period of  
10 our meetings, we only meet once a quarter. And  
11 Washington sometimes says we need it yesterday. Is  
12 what you are suggesting is a standing committee that  
13 can function to respond to Washington when it's not  
14 practical to bring the whole MAC together?

15                   MR. FOOTE: I would like to still be  
16 further in front of the curve than that, because the  
17 requests do come often where it's, tomorrow can you  
18 tell me? Can you tell me two days from now? And  
19 that's not sufficient time to convene a work group.  
20 So we get ahead of the curve and we start to identify  
21 all those things up front. So have something of a  
22 laundry list of projects, but they are prioritized.  
23 Here is what we agree how to move forward.

24                   MR. HAVERT: I would like to offer a  
25 motion. Actually, two.

1                   Motion No. 1, that we establish a steering  
2 work group and if Buford will chair it, I will be on  
3 it. Or if somebody else wants to chair it, I will be  
4 on it, and that's Motion No. 1.

5                   MR. MARCHAND: Second.

6                   CHAIRMAN WATTS: All those in favor.  
7 Aye. Any opposed? Motion passes. We have one more?

8                   Can we have one more volunteer for that?  
9 Jeff Morgan. Perfect.

10                  MR. HAVERT: Next motion: That we don't  
11 do anything else about establishing work groups today.  
12 And if there are other suggestions about work groups,  
13 that comes back at the next meeting with some fleshing  
14 out as to what their proposed function is.

15                  MR. MARCHAND: Second.

16                  MR. CRITES: Did you say "fleshing" or  
17 "flushing" out?

18                  MS. HENDERSON: Either.

19                  CHAIRMAN WATTS: All in favor, aye. Any  
20 opposed? Motion passes.

21                  MR. HAVERT: I have two more motions.  
22 Next motion. That looking back quickly at the  
23 standard agenda, that for the next meeting, two  
24 changes: One, that for – I guess we are calling them  
25 report items or news items or whatever, that those be

1 done in the form of a brief written report that are  
2 part of the agenda packet that goes out. And we  
3 therefore eliminate the need for oral reports to the  
4 maximum degree possible as a way to shorten the  
5 meetings.

6 And second part of this is just add an item  
7 on here. Call it action items or whatever you want,  
8 but it comes early in the meeting. And that's where  
9 we have identified something that we need a  
10 recommendation from the MAC on it. And I would  
11 suggest as part of this motion that either the chair  
12 and/or this new steering committee work closely with  
13 the monument manager to identify which key items are  
14 going to appear in that category for the next MAC  
15 meeting.

16 MR. MARCHAND: Would you accept a  
17 friendly amendment that the news items not only be  
18 written, but that they be treated in effect as a  
19 consent calendar and that they be accepted by title as  
20 part of one omnibus motion that essentially we don't  
21 have to do a separate receiving file on each one of  
22 these things?

23 MR. HAVERT: To the extent that they  
24 would require any sort of receiving file.

25 MR. MARCHAND: Just to keep it kosher

1 under Robert's Rules.

2 MR. HAVERT: I will accept that.

3 MR. MARCHAND: I will second the item.

4 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Any discussion? Any  
5 opposed? Motion carries.

6 MR. HAVERT: I have one more motion,  
7 adjournment.

8 MR. MARCHAND: Second.

9 MS. BERGMAN: I just have one question.  
10 If you take these news items off the agenda and you  
11 put them in the packet, how are we as public going to  
12 get an update if we can't come to the meeting and get  
13 the full oral report?

14 MR. HAVERT: You can read the  
15 information just as well as all of us.

16 THE WITNESS: How? It doesn't get  
17 mailed to me.

18 MS. HENDERSON: Do we post it?

19 MR. MARCHAND: We have a Web site, yes?  
20 We don't have a Web site?

21 Then we should have a Web site up and  
22 running and that material posted on the Web site. I  
23 mean, that complies with CFR.

24 MR. HAVERT: Do you have a list of  
25 people that wish to receive that information? A

1 mailing list that they get it.

2 MS. BERGMAN: That's fine. I just was  
3 curious because that's the only way I can get  
4 information.

5 MR. MORGAN: Just from the agenda?

6 CHAIRMAN WATTS: We have a couple review  
7 items, if you want to hold off on your motion a few  
8 more seconds.

9 MR. MARCHAND: I will accept the  
10 withdrawal if you withdraw your motion.

11 MR. HAVERT: Okay.

12 CHAIRMAN WATTS: Jim, wrap it up.

13 MR. FOOTE: I think it would take too  
14 long to summarize all these things. I think two key  
15 items for the next meeting are one, lunch. Who is  
16 going to take on lunch? Our track of lunch is kind of  
17 unknown at this point, and I would like to have a  
18 volunteer who might do that. Barbara is going to do  
19 that?

20 MS. GONZALES-LYONS: Agua Caliente Tribe  
21 will.

22 MR. FOOTE: Agua Caliente will provide  
23 lunch at the next meeting.

24 And also in line of continuing the  
25 nonfederal partner presentation, as Tom did today for

1 the Agua Caliente, who might want to step up to the  
2 plate for the next meeting? Do we need to volunteer  
3 someone?

4 MR. HAVERT: We will do one for the  
5 Conservancy, and it won't exceed ten minutes.

6 MR. FOOTE: Very good. Thank you, Bill.

7 CHAIRMAN WATTS: The date of the next  
8 meeting.

9 MR. FOOTE: Next meeting is the first  
10 Saturday in September, whatever that might be.

11 The first Saturday is in fact the Labor  
12 Day weekend, so this will be the second Saturday.  
13 September 9 will be the next meeting.

14 MS. HENDERSON: Comment on the next  
15 meeting date, which is Saturday, September the 9th.  
16 That is falling on the last day of League of  
17 California Cities annual conference, which for most  
18 people would end on Friday, but I'm on the board, and  
19 our board meeting goes from noon Friday to noon  
20 Saturday. So it looks like you guys will all, ladies  
21 and guys, enjoy your next meeting without me. And  
22 maybe some other people that might be going to the  
23 conference.

24 CHAIRMAN WATTS: I think the suggestion  
25 was made we could at least consider as committee a

1 different day to meet as opposed to Saturdays.

2 MS. HENDERSON: That was going to be a  
3 suggestion that perhaps between now and the next  
4 meeting, the MAC members give consideration to meeting  
5 on a day other than Saturdays. I don't know that  
6 anybody – if you want to react today or just wait and  
7 react.

8 MR. MARCHAND: I don't think we should  
9 react today.

10 Terry, where is the League of Cities  
11 Conference again this year? It just went out of my  
12 mind.

13 MS. HENDERSON: League of California  
14 Cities Conference.

15 MR. MARCHAND: Where?

16 MS. HENDERSON: San Diego. LAFCO is  
17 meeting in San Diego that same week, so I will be at  
18 both of them.

19 MR. MARCHAND: Ten minutes ago I knew  
20 where the conference was, but as soon as you said it,  
21 it went out of my mind.

22 MR. GONZALES-LYONS: I want to make sure  
23 we take care of the public's concern about the  
24 information. So either we get a sign-in sheet either  
25 today or soon so they can sign in for whatever

1 information they want to have mailed to them or have  
2 some information provided here at the time of the  
3 meetings, written information.

4 MR. MARCHAND: Certainly we should  
5 encourage if they have e-mail, to provide that so that  
6 the material can be sent electronically as well  
7 because that certainly will speed up the process of  
8 avoiding the problems we might have with the postal  
9 service.

10 MR. MORGAN: Also regarding this month,  
11 I suggest when the agenda is posted either on the  
12 computer or mailed out, this material be attached as  
13 an addendum to the agenda. Many people access the  
14 agenda on the computer. And that way everyone should  
15 be taken care of.

16 MR. GONZALES-LYONS: You mean the public  
17 would be able to access that?

18 MR. MORGAN: Yes. If you go to the BLM  
19 about a -- I don't know, about 10 days before a  
20 meeting, they put this on their BLM Web site.

21 MR. GONZALES-LYONS: The public will be  
22 able to access the attached items too?

23 MR. MORGAN: Yes, it should all be as  
24 one package.

25 MR. FOOTE: Well, you notice there were

1 a lot of things that were handed out today that were  
2 not even listed as handouts. And that I take  
3 responsibility for developing late in the week. And  
4 so they are a little bit late coming, but we will try  
5 to get ahead of the curve and make those available on  
6 the Web. And aside from that, I want to thank you for  
7 all bearing with me as I muddle through the process  
8 and try to learn what best to do.

9 MS. HENDERSON: Doing a great job.

10 (Applause from the audience.)

11 MR. MARCHAND: Perhaps, Mr. Havert, will  
12 you entertain a motion to adjourn?

13 MR. HAVERT: Absolutely.

14 MR. MUTH: Second.

15 CHAIRMAN WATTS: We are adjourned.

16 (The proceedings were adjourned at 1:42 p.m.)

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R E P O R T E R ' S C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Judith W. Gillespie, a certified shorthand reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing pages comprise a full, true and correct transcription of the proceedings had and the testimony taken at the hearing in the hereinbefore-entitled matter of June 3, 2006.

Dated this 19th day of June, 2006, at Riverside, California.

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Judith W. Gillespie, CSR No. 3710